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(54) Diabetes data analysis and interpretation system.

(57) An automated diabetes data interpretation system is provided which combines symbolic and numeric computing approaches in order to identify and highlight key clinical findings in the patient's self-recorded diabetes data. The patent data, including blood glucose levels and insulin dosage levels, recorded by a diabetic patient over a period of time by means of a glucose meter or the like, is initially downloaded into a central processing system such as a personal computer. The accepted diabetes data is subsequently processed to (a) identify insulin dosage regimens corresponding to predefined significant changes in insulin dosage which are found to be sustained for at least a predefined segment of the overall data collection period, (b) identify statistically significant changes in blood glucose levels resulting across adjacent ones of the identified insulin regimen periods, and (c) identify clinically significant changes in blood glucose levels from within the identified statistically significant glucose level changes. The results of the diabetes data processing are generated in the form of a comprehensive yet easily understandable data interpretation report highlighting the processing results, including details pertaining to the identified insulin regimens and the associated clinically significant changes in glucose levels.

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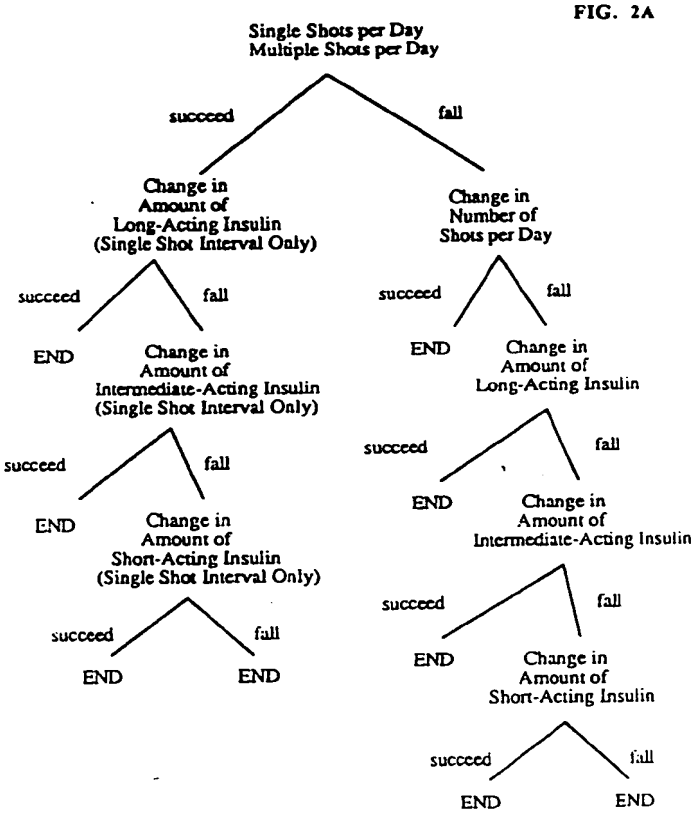
FIG. 2A



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1. Field of the Invention

This invention generally relates to the field of diabetes management tools. More specifically, this invention relates to a system for automated analysis and interpretation of glucose data collected from diabetic patients.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Home glucose monitoring by diabetics is becoming increasingly routine in modern-day diabetes management. Patients are typically required to maintain hand-written paper log books for manually recording glucose readings and other relevant information. More specifically, patients now measure their blood glucose at scheduled times, possibly to determine the amount of insulin based on the current blood glucose result, and record this information in a personal log book.

Physicians are subsequently faced with the task of carefully reviewing the hand-recorded data for use in optimizing the patient's diabetes therapy. In order to make intelligent and meaningful decisions regarding therapeutic modifications, it becomes necessary for the examining physician to not only summarize the available information but, more importantly, to analyze hundreds of time-dependant observations collected over an extended period of time in order to spot unusual and clinically significant features requiring any modifications of the patient's current diabetes management schedule. The recorded data typically extends over a period of time spanning several weeks or months and constitutes a vast amount of time-dependant data. As an example, a patient on a regimen of three injections of mixed insulin per day who records only the most basic diabetes management data, i.e., only insulin and glucose levels, will generate a personal log comprising 810 data items over a three month period. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a physician to be able to review and assimilate all the clinical and therapeutic implications of this vast amount of data in any reasonable amount of time.

While the introduction of glucose meters with various memory functions has greatly simplified the data recording process and increased the reliability of stored data, the large amounts of recorded data have made the interpretation task complicated. Such glucose meters now make it possible for patients to maintain a scrupulous record of glucose readings and insulin dosage taken over a lengthy period of time. More importantly, it is also possible with present-day devices for patients to record other clinically relevant data such as diet and exercise factors, and life-style information. All such stored data can conveniently be transferred to a physician's office, preferably via a communications link such as an acoustic modem line, where it can be reviewed in printed or video display format for making appropriate treatment recommendations.

The vast amount of stored glucose monitoring-related data has tremendously complicated the physician's ability to effectively study data corresponding to hundreds of time-dependant observations and measurements in order to focus on key clinical implications buried therein and generate meaningful and intelligent diabetes treatment decisions. Accordingly, computer-based methods must be adopted for efficiently tackling the high volume of monitored data and the complexity of the data interpretation task.

Attempts have been made at computerized automation of the data interpretation task and personal computer programs have been developed for interactive display of diabetes patient data and creation of paper reports therefrom. Such programs are typically menu-driven microcomputer programs which are adapted to process pre-recorded diabetes patient data in order to generate a statistical and graphical analysis of the data. Although the processing of voluminous diabetes patient data and the generation of associated graphs and statistical analyses does assist the physician in his review, it still becomes incumbent on the physician to spend a significant amount of time interactively guiding the analysis, studying the generated program results and performing additional synthesis of the data in order to detect clinical implications contained therein.

In essence, traditional approaches to automated analysis of diabetes data provide a relatively superficial analysis and an assortment of graphical displays based upon certain predefined statistical calculations. However, the time-consuming and complicated synthesis and interpretation of clinical implications associated with the processed data still need to be performed by the reviewing physician, and significant interaction is still required on behalf of the physician.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a system for automated analysis and interpretation of diabetes patient recorded data which is capable of identifying and highlighting key clinical findings from a patient's self-recorded data.

A particular object of the present invention is to provide such a diabetes data interpretation system which is particularly adapted for rapid, in-depth analysis of data from glucose meters.

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A related object of this invention is to provide a data interpr tation system of the above type which is capable of detecting clinical implications contained within the self-recorded data and pr senting pertinent identified data in a manner that effectively supports the findings.

A more specific object of this invention is to provide such a diabetes data interpretation system which is capable of detecting significant changes in insulin therapy and determining any corresponding statistically significant and clinically significant changes in glucose control resulting from the changes in insulin therapy.

Briefly, in accordance with the present invention, the above and other objects are realized by means of an automated diabetes data interpretation system, referred to herein as the "IDDI" system, which combines symbolic and numeric computing approaches in order to identify and highlight key clinical findings in the patient's self-recorded diabetes data. The patient data, including blood glucose levels and insulin dosage levels, and associated lifestyle markers such as exercise, diet, symptoms, etc., recorded by a diabetic patient over a period of time by means of a glucose meter or the like, is initially downloaded into a central processing system such as a personal computer. The accepted diabetes data is subsequently processed to

(a) identify insulin dosage regimens corresponding to predefined significant changes in insulin dosage which are found to be sustained for at least a predefined segment of the overall data collection period,

(b) identify statistically significant changes in blood glucose levels resulting across adjacent on s of the identified insulin regimen periods, and

(c) identify clinically significant changes in blood glucose levels from within the identified statistically significant glucose level changes.

The results of the diabetes data processing are generated in the form of a comprehensive yet easily understandable data interpretation report highlighting the processing results, including details pertaining to the identified insulin regimens and the associated clinically significant changes in glucose levels.

The IDDI system of the present invention is capable of rapid, yet in-depth analysis of patient data from glucose meters with memory functions so as to examine intermediate analytic results, study the clinical implications of the analysis, perform predefined data-driven analyses, and generate a cogent, self-contained utput of key clinical findings. The system is capabl of detecting clinical implications contained within the self-recorded diabetes data and presenting th pertinent data in a manner that effectively supports th findings.

In accordance with th system of this invention, the interpr tation of diabetes patient data is accomplished by combining symbolic and numeric computing methods in order to derive clinically significant or meaningful findings from the self-recorded diabetes data. In essence, the system processes the patient's self-recorded data in accordance with specific symbolic and numeric analytic techniques to perform two important related tasks: (1) the detection of significant changes in a patient's insulin therapy, and (2) a determination of corresponding statistically significant as well as clinically significant changes in the patient's blood glucose levels resulting from the earlier-detected insulin therapy changes.

Changes in insulin therapy are inferred by examining the daily insulin dosages included in the patient's self-recorded data. Since patients frequently make small temporary adjustments in their insulin doses using a sliding scale based on a variety of factors (including the value of simultaneous blood glucose measurements, recent trends in glucose levels, and anticipated insulin needs), a change in the recorded insulin dose from a previous dose may represent changes resulting due to adherence to the sliding scale or, in fact, due to a true change in the patient's base line insulin therapy. The IDDI system is capable of recognizing when a systematic or significant change in insulin therapy (such as insulin type, dosage and number of shots) has occurred despite a background of constantly changing insulin information. Additionally, once a significant change in insulin therapy has been detected, the system further identifies if the modification resulted in any significant change in glucose control.

A plurality of algorithms are disclosed herein toward identification of insulin regimens, which are periods of similar insulin therapy from within the overall glucose data recording period. In accordance with a "robust-change-detection" ("RCD") algorithm, domain-independent changes are detected by identifying when a run of a predefined number or more of consecutive insulin readings are found to be different from the readings that immediately preceded the run. In accordance with a "local-relevance-aggregation" ("LRA") algorithm, adjacent daily insulin injection records are examined and an attempt is made to combine them into a set of related records, called a period. The combination is performed according to a sequence of diabetologist-derived combining criteria is used to determine if a daily insulin record can be included into a period.

Finally, according to a preferred embodiment, a "hi rarchical-r levance" ("HR") algorithm is used which combin s th advantag s associated with both the RCD and LRA algorithms. The HR al-

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gorithm uses a hierarchy of "clinical significance" for determining which changes are of sufficient interest to cause a br ak in a run. The hierarchy encodes domain-dependent clinical knowledge similar to that used in the LRA algorithm and superimposes this knowledge on the domain-independent runs-detection method used in the RCD algorithm. A hierarchy of insulin changes is constructed for determining if a clinically significant alteration in insulin has occurred. This hierarchy is subsequently used to organize the criteria used to generate breaks in runs in applying the runs-detection method, and to create an appropriate insulin table.

When a significant change in insulin therapy has been detected, i.e., the overall data recording period has in fact been defined into several insulin regim ns, the IDDI system initially determines wheth r the change in insulin therapy resulted in any statistically significant change in blood glucose control.

This is accomplished by performing a series of analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests on blood glucose readings separated by insulin regimens and mealtimes. (The use of "mealtimes" herein refers to the various time intervals of a day which, in the pr ferred embodiment, are breakfasttime, lunchtime, suppertime, bedtime, nighttime and overall.) The ANOVA test procedure is applied across adjacent regimens and pairs of corresponding groups of blood glucose readings in order to determine if the probability distribution of readings varies between compared groups, thereby indicating the pr s nce of a statistically significant blood glucose change.

The results of the statistical analysis are returned to the symbolic system which examines the statistical output for clinical relevance and generates an appropriate output if the statistical results are deemed to be of clinical import. In particular, the statistically significant changes are filtered in accordance with a set of screen rules based on clinical knowledge in order to identify clinically rel vant blood glucose changes.

The system next determines the most relevant changes in insulin therapy associated with such clinically relevant changes in blood glucose. The system also identifies extremely high or extremely low readings based on predefined thresholds and generates explanations and characterizations for the same including details on the insulin intake most likely to have affected these extreme readings. Relevant details pertaining to blood glucose and insulin readings are indicated in the form of three-day plots including information for the day on which the xtrem values occurred, as well as the immediately preceding and following days.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and advantages of the pres nt inv ntion will becom apparent upon reading th following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagrammatic representation of the system hardware with which the IDDI system of the present invention may be used;

FIG. 2A is a binary tree illustrating the hierarchical structure used by the IDDI system for identifying significant changes in insulin therapy;

FIG. 2 is an illustration of the introductory segment of the output report generated by the diabetes data interpretation system of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a summary of the insulin dosage (the insulin table) during the overall monitoring period when the patient's self-recording occurred;

FIG. 4 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing an overview of the self-monitored glucose measurements;

FIG. 5 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing an overall summary of blood glucose results during the self-monitoring period;

FIG. 6 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a summary of the blood glucose results by patient mealtimes;

FIG. 7 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a comparison of blood glucose results in weekdays versus weekends days;

FIG. 8 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing an overall statistical summary of blood glucose results with respect to the identified insulin regimens;

FIG. 9 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a summary of blood glucose results in the identified insulin regimens for lunchtime readings;

FIG. 10 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a summary of blood glucose results for the identified insulin regimens for supper readings;

FIG. 11 is a segment of the data interpretation report providing a summary of blood glucose results for the identified insulin regimens for bedtime readings;

FIG. 12 is a segment of the data interpretation report showing 3-day plots for identified extreme blood glucose values and associat d discussions; and

FIG. 13 is a block diagrammatic r presentation of hierarchical design of th system software for th IDDI system, in accordance with a pr ferred mbodim nt of th present invention;

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FIG. 14 is a block diagrammatic representation of th architecture for the major analysis module of the IDDI system; and

FIGS. 15-30 ar flowcharts illustrating the sequence of operations involved in xecuting the IDDI system and generating the associated data interpretation reports.

While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, a specific embodiment thereof has been shown by way of example in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that it is not intended to limit the invention to the particular forms disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

1. OVERVIEW OF THE IDDI SYSTEM

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is shown a block diagrammatic representation of the system hardware with which the IDDI system of the present invention is adapted to be used. As shown therein, the system 10 essentially comprises the glucose meter 12 used by a patient for recording, inter alia, insulin dosage readings and measured blood glucose ("BG") levels, and possible lifestyle markers such as for diet, exercise, symptoms, etc., during a given monitoring period. Data stored within the glucose meter 12 is preferably transferred through appropriate communication links 13 and an associated data modem 14 to a processing station, such as a personal computer 16. Alternatively, data stored within the glucose meter 12 may be directly downloaded into the personal computer 16 through an appropriate interface cable 17.

The computer 16 includes the software necessary to process, analyze and interpret the self-recorded diabetes patient data in accordance with predefined flow sequences (to be described below in detail) and generate an appropriate data interpretation output. Preferably, the results of the data analysis and interpretation performed upon the stored patient data by the computer 16 are displayed in the form of a paper report generated through a printer 18 associated with the personal computer 16. Alternatively, the results of the data interpretation procedure may be directly displayed on a video display unit 20 associated with the computer 16.

A giv n patient data file, which comprises the data downloaded from th glucose m ter 12 into the personal computer 16 and corresponding to a single monitoring period, is processed by the computer 16 in accordance with IDDI system in such a manner as to extract clinically meaningful information ther from and present it in the form of a comprehensive and informative report. The report is particularly adapted for convenient use by a physician toward arriving at meaningful or intelligent clinical and/or therapeutic decisions. The data interpretation report is comprehensive and replaces the laborious paging through and manual review by a physician of the inordinately large and difficult to comprehend amount of raw data contained in the patient log. It should be noted that the IDDI system requires no user intervention once the set of data to be interpreted is made available in the form of a patient file in system memory.

The system uses a combination of symbolic and numerical methods to analyze the data, detect clinical implications contained in the data and present the pertinent information in the form of a graphics-based data interpretation report. The symbolic methods used by the IDDI system encode the logical methodology used by expert diabetologists as they examine patient logs for clinically-signifi-cant findings, while the numeric or statistical methods test the patient data for evidence to support a hypothesis posited by the symbolic methods which may be of assistance to a reviewing physician.

The combined use of symbolic and numeric computing techniques in interpreting the patient's self-recorded data is essentially directed to the realization of two basic objectives:

(1) the detection of significant changes in insulin therapy so as to divide the overall monitoring period into a plurality of insulin regimens of similar insulin therapy, such as type of insulin (regular or short-acting insulin, NPH/lente or intermediate-acting insulin, and ultra-lente or long-acting insulin), dosage, number of shots, etc., and

(2) detecting statistically significant as well as clinically significant changes in blood glucose levels following a detected significant change in insulin therapy.

Since the IDDI system does not have access to a patient's actual insulin regimen, it is important for the system to infer the patient's regimen, i.e., actual changes in insulin therapy, by examining the daily insulin dosages recorded in the patient's data and subsequently transferred to the corresponding patient data file in the system memory. Patients frequently make small temporary adjustments in their insulin doses using a sliding scale table based on a variety of factors, including the value of simultaneous blood glucose measurements, recent trends in glucose l vels, and anticipated insulin needs. It is thus, important to distinguish between chang s in th recorded insulin dose from a previous dose r sulting (1) from adher nce to the

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sliding scale or (2) r sulting from a true change in the patient's base line insulin therapy. The IDDI system of the present invention is capabl of recognizing the occurr nce of a systematic change in insulin despite the background of constantly changing insulin dosages.

The identification of insulin regimens or periods of similar insulin therapy is important and allows data obtained during periods of different insulin therapy to be examined separately. If this separate examination does not occur, treatment-related changes in glucose control or clinical complications may be missed or attributed to other possible causes.

Three different algorithms were developed and are disclosed herein for identification of regions of similar insulin therapy. In accordance with a first algorithm referred to as the "robust-change-detection" ("RCD") algorithm, domain-independent change is focused upon. This algorithm is based on the concept of a "generic-change" which is found to exist when a run of a predetermined number (preferably three) or more consecutive insulin readings are found to have a sustained difference from the readings that immediately preceded the run.

With this algorithm, for instance, the sequence of regular insulin injections, 6 6 6 7 6 6 6 7 8 6, is identified as a sustained run of 6 units of regular insulin. It should be noted that no break in the run occurs at either of the two 7 unit or the single 8 unit injections because these changes are not sustained over the predefined threshold of three successive readings. These three irregular readings (the two 7s and the single 8) are said to be unsustained deviations or anomalous values.

On the other hand, the sequence of regular insulin injections, 6 6 6 7 7 8 7 7 7, is broken up into two sequences, 6 6 6 and 7 7 8 7 7 7 because there is a sustained change to 7 units from the initial run of 6 units. In this case, the single injection of 8 units is considered to be an anomalous value within the run of 7 units.

It should also be noted that the RCD algorithm may be modified for encoding additional clinical knowledge. For instance, the choice of the number of consecutive readings that determine the start of a new run can be increased. The preferred threshold of three consecutive readings was selected after the performance of this algorithm was examined with respect to other run-length values. Also, different run-length criteria may be specified for different insulin types (regular or long-acting) or for various injection times (AM or PM).

In addition, th range of recorded readings that may be considered "id ntical" can also be adjusted. The algorithm could, for exampl , be adjusted to account for th fact that, due to sliding scale insulin adjustments, regular insulin tends to vary more than long-acting insulin. By incorporating this clinical knowledge, the RCD algorithm could be modified to consider changes of ±1 unit of regular insulin to be "identical" dosages. Preferably, however, "identical" values are defined to be numerically equal. Also, different range criteria (±1 unit) could be used for different insulin types or for various injection types.

For patients adopting split/mixed regimens, the RCD algorithm is applied to all insulin types (short-acting, intermediate-acting and long-acting) at all injection times.

In accordance with a second algorithm for identifying insulin regimens of similar insulin therapy, the "local-relevance-aggregation" ("LRA") approach, adjacent daily insulin injection records are examined and attempts are made to combine them into a set of related records, called a period. A sequence of combining criteria is used by this algorithm to determine if a daily insulin record can be included into a period. According to criteria No. 1, records that differ by regular insulin only are combined. According to criteria No. 2, records that differ by NPH type of insulin only are combined. According to criteria No. 3, records that differ by lente type of insulin only are combined. According to criteria No. 4, records that differ by ultra-lente type of insulin only are combined. For each such criterion, adjacent days are combined into periods only if they differ by that criterion.

The combining criteria ensure that periods generated by combining adjacent days reflect periods of clinically similar insulin therapy and are derived from reviews of representative patient insulin records by expert diabetologists. In terms of the algorithm sequence, periods are initially created using the first criterion. Records that are not combined into periods at this step are examined by the second criterion and combined into periods if they do satisfy that criterion. Each set of remaining records is examined by subsequent combining criteria and is combined into periods if it satisfies the criterion. It should be noted that periods formed by previous criteria are not combined into periods formed by later criteria.

A specific day is included into a period only if the insulin readings for that day differ only by the current combining criterion. However, this difference may exist at any injection time (AM or PM). Any change in the number of insulin injections (for example, from single-injection therapy to multiple-injection therapy) always results in the start of a n w period irrespectiv of the current combining criteria. For a specific insulin injection r cord, eith r a criterion will be satisfied, resulting in that day being included in a period, or the criterion will not be satisfied, leaving that day excluded from the

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current period. The excluded day is, however, considered for possible inclusion into a different period if it satisfi s a later combining criterion. The final insulin table is the set of all periods formed by all the combining criteria.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a third algorithm referred to as the "hierarchical-relevance" ("HR") algorithm is used for identifying regions of similar insulin therapy. This algorithm combines the advantages and avoids certain disadvantages inherent to the two previously-described algorithms. In particular, the HR algorithm takes advantage of the fact that the RCD algorithm can be improved by application of additional clinical knowledge that can eliminate clinically-irrelevant divisions, while the LRA algorithm can be improved by the use of a less stringent runs-breaking criterion which can eliminate many small groups.

The HR algorithm is based on the use of a hierarchy of "clinical relevance" that determines which changes are of sufficient interest to cause a br ak in a run. In particular, the hierarchy encodes domain-dependent clinical knowledge similar to that found in the LRA algorithm and superimposes it on the domain-independent runs-detection method used in the RCD algorithm. As an illustration, a change from single to split injection therapy is clinically more significant than a small change in th amount of regular insulin in the morning.

More specifically, the HR algorithm is based on a hierarchy of insulin changes that determines if a clinically significant alteration in insulin has occurred. The hierarchy is used to organize the criteria for generating breaks in runs in the RCD algorithm. Traversal of the hierarchy is arbitrarily stopped when an insulin table of a predetermined depth (preferably 2-6 lines long) is created. A patient record that fails on all criteria in the hierarchy (for example, a patient who never changes insulin dosages) is summarized in a 1-line insulin table.

While the sequential procedure undergone in implementing the HR algorithm is described in detail below, the criteria encoded according to clinical knowledge, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of this invention, are illustrated at FIG. 2A in the form of nodes in a binary tree. The success branch at each binary node is taken if the result of applying a criterion to the patient record results in two or more runs; otherwise, the fail branch is taken. When an END node is reached, the insulin table is finalized for being printed later. Records which succeed on the first criteria (for instance, a change from single injection to multiple injection therapy) ar processed additionally only during the single-injection intervals. If a patient's record fails on all criteria (i.e., reaches the rightmost END node), a single line insulin table is finalized for being printed later.

In applying the binary tre hierarchy in FIG. 2A, the HR algorithm initially splits the insulin data based on the first criterion in the illustrated clinical heuristics hierarchy (i.e., splits the data if any sustained change from single to multiple injections of insulin per day is detected). For all criteria, a sustained change is defined as a difference that occurs in a predefined number or more of consecutive days. Preferably, the predefined threshold number of days for this purpose is selected to be three.

After the application of the first criterion, the number of runs detected by the criterion is counted. If there are less than two runs, the next criterion in the hierarchy is applied to the current run and the algorithm is repeated. If, however, there are at least two runs or if no other criteria exist, the insulin table generated up to that point is used directly.

Any time a significant change in insulin therapy is detected in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the IDDI system is capable of identifying if a change in insulin therapy resulted in, first, any statistically significant change and, subsequently, any clinically significant change in glucose control. Finally, the most relevant insulin changes associated with such clinically relevant glucose level changes are determined.

The above functions are accomplished by performing a series of analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests after separating the various blood glucose readings into different groups based on specific insulin regimens and time intervals of day (i.e., the mealtimes referred to earlier). ANOVA tests are performed for readings in adjacent regimens and pairs of such groups and determine if the probability distribution of blood glucose values has changed from the first group in a pair to the next, thereby indicating the presence of a statistically significant change in blood glucose readings.

Subsequently, a set of screen rules based on clinical knowledge is applied to identify those statistically significant changes in blood glucose readings which are also clinically significant. The IDDI system then determines, for each identified clinically significant change, the most relevant change in insulin therapy between the two regimens relative to which the significant change in blood glucose occurred. Accordingly, the system is capable of providing a possible explanation for each clinically significant chang in glucose readings based on the corresponding change in insulin therapy, and the results of the analysis ar presented in th form of an appr priate graphical display. For instance, if two adjacent insulin regimens differ in

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increases in both breakfast and lunchtime regular insulin dosages and a significant change in lunchtim glucose is found, the system identifies the incr ase in breakfast insulin dosage as the most relevant change. If, however, no significant changes in glucose readings are detected following the ANOVA tests, or if the subsequent screening identifies no clinically significant changes, no corresponding graphical display is generated in the data interpretation report. Further details about the identification of such statistically and clinically changes will be described below in connection with the IDDI system flowcharts.

The IDDI system also identifies the presence of readings which are either extremely high or extremely low, based on predefined thresholds. According to a preferred embodiment, readings exceeding about 375 mg/dl are classified as extremely high while readings below about 40 mg/dl are classified as extremely low. These extreme readings are further analyzed and explanations and characterizations generated on the basis of the particular insulin regimens and time intervals with which the readings are associated, as well as information on the type of insulin intake most likely to have affected the identified extremes. The results of this analysis are presented in the form of thr e-day plots including blood glucose and insulin details for the days immediately preceding and following the day on which each extreme value is found. Additional details about these procedures will be described below in connection with the corresponding IDDI flowcharts.

It should be noted that the expected change in glucose levels depends on the specific alterations in insulin therapy. Thus, the system focuses on changes in insulin therapy in order to explain potential changes in glucose control. For instance, if regular insulin is added to a patient's morning NPH insulin dose, generally lower lunchtime glucose readings can be expected.

Also, if the self-recorded patient data indicates that significantly more mid-day hypoglycemic episodes occurred while the patient received both morning NPH and regular insulin doses as compared to when the patient received only morning NPH, the IDDI system notes that the increase in complications, i.e., the occurrence of increased hypoglycemic episodes, is consistent with the change in morning regular insulin therapy. Although it cannot be proved that the addition of morning regular insulin resulted in the increase in hypoglycemic episodes, domain-specific knowledge about insulin kinetics and the temporal r lationships seen in the patient record make this hypothesis clinically plausible.

The combined use of symbolic and numeric/statistical processing allows the coordination of the type of reasoning required to produce the r quisite graphical output when a significant change in glucose control is associated with a change in insulin therapy. In particular, the HR algorithm generates the insulin table defining the various regimens of insulin therapy and uses symbolic methods. When a change in insulin therapy is detected, a statistical analysis is performed using the ANOVA routine. The ANOVA results are subsequently returned to the symbolic system, which examines the statistical output for clinical relevance.

Symbolic reasoning is also used to examine clinically relevant glucose changes and identify the most clinically relevant changes in insulin therapy associated with each such blood glucose change. Thus, symbolic and numeric processes are used in concert as the basis for the data analysis and interpretation task in order to present the results thereof in a clinically meaningful manner.

2. THE DATA INTERPRETATION REPORT

The following section provides a description of the data interpretation reports generated in accordance with the system of the present invention. These reports are particularly adapted for use by a physician as a replacement to sifting through patient log books containing a vast amount of raw data, the clinical and therapeutic implications of which cannot be assimilated in any reasonable amount of time. The report contains a number of graphics, both simple and detailed, in order to help provide insight into the patient's level of glucose control and recording behavior The graphics are also adapted to detail possible trouble spots or complications which can be inferred from analysis of the patient data.

Referring now to FIGS. 2-12, there are shown various segments of an illustrative data interpretation report generated by the IDDI system of the present invention following processing of a particular downloaded patient data set. It will be obvious that certain graphical sections in the illustrative report may not be generated for other patient data. Also, other data sets may generate additional segments similar to those shown here, as described in the system flowcharts.

FIG. 2 represents the "Global Summary" section of the IDDI report which provides a concise set of statements describing the highlights of the data interpretation results. In particular, the summary provides an examining physician with a very general summary of the patient data and gives an indication of areas n which the physician may focus in th subsequ nt sections of the report. In

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case of the patient data set for which th summary of FIG. 2 was generated, for instanc , the first statement refers to what appear to be different regimens of insulin therapy. In each regimen, the system has identified a change in the pattern of insulin dosage. The changes from one regimen to th next may be relatively inconspicuous, such as th change in the amount of a particular type of insulin (long- or short-acting) taken at a certain time of day, or the changes may be more marked, such as a change in the number of insulin shots per day. The actual details of the different insulin regimens referred to in the summary are provided in subsequent sections of the data interpretation report.

The Global Summary also includes a reference to the relative status of the average blood glucose level for the patient compared to the upper or lower limits of the patient's prescribed target range. In addition, reference is made to the existence of blood glucose values exceeding predefined "extremely high" or "extremely low" thresholds as w ll as a statement of the time interval when such extreme values occurred.

FIG. 3 provides an illustration of the "Insulin Dose Summary" section of the data interpretation report showing the differing insulin dosage during each insulin regimen identified in the patient's record. If no change in insulin therapy were to be detected, the insulin table shown in FIG. 3 would constitute a single line. The left-hand graphic in FIG. 3, which is disposed under the heading "Insulin Period," identifies the various insulin regimens (labelled as A, B, C, etc.) and indicates what proportion of the entire patient recording period that particular insulin regimen comprises. This section of the graphic shows the start and end dates of each regimen.

The gray level of the horizontal bar section for each regimen represents the percentage of days spanning that regimen in which insulin doses were recorded.

Accordingly, a regimen in which all days contain insulin information is represented in black, while one in which most days have recordings is dark gray, and so on. While the short insulin regimens (1- and 2-day periods) are not shown in detail in the summary of FIG. 3, this particular graphic is useful in showing where such periods appear relativ to the rest of the record.

In the graphic of FIG. 3, the column graphs on th right hand side (under the headings Breakfast, Lunch and Supper) show the relative frequencies of the actual doses of insulin taken at each mealtime during each insulin regimen. The gray l v l of each column in these graphs is r pr sentative of the particular type of insulin tak n by the patient. Regular insulin is represented as light gray, NPH or lente insulin is repr sented as being r latively darker, and ultra-lente insulin is represented as being th darkest.

The graphs for a particular type of insulin at a particular mealtime hav the same horizontal scales to enable a quick vertical visual scan of these graphs for focusing upon the change in a particular type of insulin at a mealtime. In the graphic of FIG. 3, for example, NPH dosage at breakfast is shown to have changed dramatically across the three regimens: in the first regimen, i.e., regimen A, the dosage was 26 units, in the second regimen, i.e., regimen B, it was 22 units, and in the third regimen, i.e., regimen C, the dosage was 16 units. Similarly, the graphic makes it clear that regimens A and B had no regular insulin at breakfast, while in regimen C, regular insulin was taken at a level of 6 units about 90% of the time and a level of 4 units about 10% of the time.

Referring now to FIG. 4, there is shown a segment of the data interpretation report characterized as "Glucose Measurement Summary" which is aimed at providing the physician with an overall view of the patient's blood glucose control and recording behavior. Referring to the bottom-most section of the graph, the gray "checkerboard" section shows, for each day, the times (breakfast "B", lunch "L", supper "S", bedtime "BT", and during the night or night-time "NT") when blood glucose values were recorded by the patient. From the record represented in FIG. 4, it can easily be noticed that the patient began recording every day, four times a day (between 7/13 and 7/20), and subsequently switched to recording every other day (see periods 7/20-7/30 and 8/16-8/31). At a subsequent point in time, intermittent data recording was resumed (see period 10/7-10/21), followed by a long hiatus (see periods 11/3-12/1 and 12/13-12/29) when no readings were taken, followed by more regular recording again. It is also clear from this graphic that on the days on which the patient was in fact recording, the recording was handled well by taking about four readings a day.

The upper section of the graphic in FIG. 4 illustrates the daily blood glucose levels of the patient. The daily average and the highest and lowest recordings of each day are shown, with a bullet (•) indicating a weekday reading and a cross (x) indicating a weekend day reading. While individual readings for the day are not shown and, accordingly, the graph does not provide an indication of the time when the highest or lowest readings occurred, the daily range and average values provid adequate information. This section of the graph also shows th patient's recommended therapeutic target rang (indicated by the dotted lin s) as well as blood glucose readings which fall outsid the xtrem ly high and xtrem ly low

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thresholds (indicated by the dashed lines). As an aid to recognizing the presence of such extreme values, any time a reading beyond these extreme limits is found, this is indicated along the top of the graph by the presence of straight or inverted triangles, respectively representing extremely high and xtremely low values.

The Glucose Measurement Summary also provid s, at the thin section of the graph immediately above the glucose level section, the particular insulin regimen in effect at a given time. The advantage of the graphic type shown at FIG. 4 is that any other events recorded by the patient in addition to standard glucose/insulin headings, such as hypoglycemic symptoms (*), increase or decrease in diet (D+, D-) or insulin (I+, I-), or exercise (Ex), may conveniently be recorded along the top of the graph in conjunction with the extremely high and low values.

FIGS. 5-12 are segments of the data interpretation report which provide various summaries of the blood glucose results generated by analyzing and interpreting the patient's data file. In particular, FIG. 5 provides an overall summary of blood glucose (BG) results. The top section of the BG summary table indicates the level of control existing at each mealtime and highlights whether the average blood glucose was too high, too low, or within target range. This section also indicates whether or not the glucose readings varied substantially (i.e., are spread too wide), indicating the presence of poor glycemic control.

The bottom section of the BG summary table is detailed and addresses therapeutic issues related to the BG results. The first row of entries indicates the extent to which the average BG readings were beyond the target range (if at all) and also indicates the particular mealtime which appears to be most problematic. Here, for instance, the Supper "distance from goal" reading is identified as being problematic and is boxed for easy identification.

If the average BG level is found to be higher than the upper limit of the patient's therapeutic target range, it is likely that the examining physician will attempt to adjust the patient's prescription (insulin, diet or exercise) to bring the BG average to within target. This adjustment, however, is not always straightforward and the bottom section of the table on FIG. 5 provides information which can be of assistance to the physician in making appropriate adjustments. For instance, if a significant number of hypoglycemic readings hav been recorded at the problematic mealtime, this is pointed out in th graph since lowering the av rage BG is also likely to incr ase the number of hypoglycemic readings. In this regard, a significant number f hypoglycemic r adings is deemed to xist if more than a threshold percentage, preferably 8%, of the total readings for that mealtime are found to be hypoglyc mic.

If, on the other hand, the problematic mealtime does not include any hypoglycemic recordings, but a number of readings exist which are sufficiently low that decreasing them by the amount that the average should be decreased by would bring them into the hypoglycemic range, then these values are potentially hypoglycemic. This fact is important to the reviewing physician and is identified and listed in the bottom section of the table.

FIG. 6 represents a section of the data interpretation report which is referred to as "BG by Mealtime" and shows the distribution of BG values by mealtime, indicating the Mean and Standard Deviation, the target range, the number of BG readings above, within and below target range, and the number of hypoglycemic readings. The histograms for each mealtime show, for each range of BG values, both the relative frequencies (percentages marked along the horizontal axis) as well as absolute frequencies (numbers marked at the end of each bar). This type of graphic is particularly advantageous in that any marked difference in control between mealtimes is made obvious.

FIG. 7 shows a segment of the data interpretation report identified as "BG by Weekday v. Weekend" and shows the distribution of BG control on weekdays versus weekend days. The graphic format is identical to that described above in connection with FIG. 6. The graph in FIG. 7 identifies increases in BG levels possibly resulting from the patient over-indulging with respect to food intake over weekends.

FIG. 8 is a graphic segment of the data interpretation report indicating the presence of any clinically significant effect of an identified change in insulin regimens on the overall level of BG control. Each histogram in the graphic of FIG. 8 shows the BG information for corresponding insulin regimens associated with a clinically significant change, with the most relevant change in insulin regimen being marked along the curved lines headed by arrows. For example, the indicator "NPH at breakfast" indicates that the amount of NPH insulin changed at breakfast from one regimen to the next, and the indicator "+ insulin at lunch and supper" indicates that an additional shot of insulin was added at lunch and supper. It should be noted that the graphic shown in FIG. 8 would be absent from the data interpretation report if only a single insulin regimen wer found to exist or if th chang in therapy had no clinically significant ffect on the level f glucose in the "overall" tim interval.

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FIGS. 9-11 represent graphics similar to that shown and described in connection with FIG. 8. The graphics focus on clinically significant effects on the level of BG control during lunch, supper, and bedtime, respectively. Again, if no clinically significant changes exist in these time intervals, the graphics of FIGS. 9-11 would be absent from the data interpretation report.

Referring now to FIG. 12, there is shown a segment of the data interpretation report entitled "Extreme Values" which shows all BG readings and insulin injections for days on which an extremely high or extremely low blood glucose value is found to exist. These details are presented in the form of three-day plots which include BG and insulin details for the days immediately preceding and following the day on which the extreme values were found. The extreme values are indicated by bullets (as compared to the use of open circles for representing standard BG value) and are further enclosed by a box, circle, diamond, inverted triangle or upright triangle depending on whether the mealtime at which they occurred was breakfast, lunch, supper, bedtime or night-time, respectively.

In addition, the left-hand column in the graphic of FIG. 12 contains an explanation or characterization of these extreme values, if one is found to exist. As shown, an explanation typically contains information about an unusual insulin dosage that may be responsible for a particular extreme value, whereas a characterization describes some common attribute of a group of extreme values, such as the fact that all occurred during a particular insulin regimen or at a certain time interval of a day, or over weekends. By being adapted to identify and characterize such factors, the IDDI system according to this invention, thus, provides the reviewing physician with key clinical findings which can serve as important bases for therapeutic decision making.

3. ARCHITECTURE OF THE IDDI SYSTEM

The following section provides a description of the architecture of the IDDI system program.

FIG. 13 is a block diagrammatic representation of the hierarchical design of the program used for analysis and interpretation of diabetes patient data in accordance with the IDDI system of the present invention. As shown therein, the IDDI system 30 accepts patient diabetes data 32 from a glucose meter, stores the incoming data as a patient file within a database corresponding to various such patient files, processes the accepted and stored data using a main program and a plurality of associated subprograms in conjunction with a predefined range of user interaction, and generates a data interpretation report 34 highlighting various results of the data analysis and interpretation procedure.

The IDDI system program is designed around a simple program dispatcher or main program 36, referred to as IDDI-Main. The primary task of IDDI-Main is to execute a set of subprograms and to handle interaction with a user 38 as well as inter-program communications through a Status file 40, referred to as IDDI-Status. The Status file 40 has shared access by IDDI-Main and all subprograms associated therewith. As each subprogram is called and finishes it work, the program dispatcher in IDDI-Main checks for any errors that occurred in the subprogram and, if none is detected, calls the next subprogram. The names of the subprograms called by IDDI-Main are preferably declared in an ASCII configuration file in order to provide flexibility in program development.

According to a preferred system configuration, the subprograms called by IDDI-Main (and named in a corresponding configuration file) are IDDI-Reader 42, IDDI-Prolog 44, IDDI-VirTex 46, IDDI-DviALW 48, and IDDI-Printer 50. The operation of each of these subprograms 42-50 will be discussed in detail below.

In the IDDI system, all subprograms communicate information to each other via standard files that are created by one subprogram and read by the next subprogram. For example, IDDI-Reader reads or downloads information from a glucose meter, such as the Glucometer M+ model glucose meter marketed by Miles, Inc., which is the Assignee of all rights to the present invention, and creates a data file (⟨patient-name⟩.meter). This data file is read by the subprogram IDDI-Prolog which creates a Tex file (⟨patient-name⟩.tex). The Tex file is, in turn, read by the subprogram IDDI-VirTex which creates a small Dvi file (⟨patient-name.dvi⟩). The Dvi file is then read by the subprogram IDDI-DviALW which creates a Postscript file (⟨patient-name⟩.dvi-alw). The Postscript file is, in turn, read by the subprogram IDDI-Printer which spools the file to a Laser Writer (no output file) for being printed out. Details about these standard files created by the system subprograms will be described below.

In essence, the Main program launches the next program in the above-described program chain, in a manner akin to the one in which a batch file evokes a sequence of programs. IDDI-Main is informed when a subprogram completes its operation and if an error occurs during program execution. If an error has occurred, IDDI-Main stops further processing. If no errors occur, IDDI-Main launches the next subprogram.

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The Status file 40 is used to perform communications between IDDI-Main and its associated subprograms. The Main program creates the Status file with global read/write permissions and all subprograms write into the status file only when they complete execution. Thus, the Main program is notifi d of the termination of a subtask when the Status file is not empty. Main reads the contents of the Status file, zeros out the Status file, and if no rror has occurred, launches the next program. Subsequently, Main continues to read the Status file until it once again is not empty.

Each of the subprograms may place any information into the Status file although Main only examines the first bite. If that bite includes a letter (such as E) used to designate the presence of an error, Main assumes the occurrence of an error; oth rwise, it is assumed that no error has occurred. It should be noted that because each program maintains its own log files, Main does not record any information about errors and the program terminates with an error dialog any time an error is detected. Under these conditions, no attempt is made to correct the error.

Pr ferably, all log files from all subprograms are saved so that the source of errors generated may be analyzed.

Further, as each subprogram is launched by Main, a status dialog box created by the program is updated. This dialog box informs the user of the status of the IDDI system and is particularly helpful when a long data file is being processed.

Referring now to FIG. 14, there is shown a diagrammatic representation of the major module, i. ., IDDI-Prolog, of the IDDI program architecture, in accordance with the present invention. As shown th rein, patient data which is loaded into a database 52 is analyzed and interpreted under control of a command module 54 using a plurality of modules performing predefined functions. More specifically, an Initialize module 56 is used for cl aring the global data structure and creating the patient database 52 in a suitable form. Preferably, the form is such that each item has a unique identifying key and the keys for similar items are grouped such that they can all be retrieved via a single resolution. Techniques for accomplishing this type of database/file definition are well known in the art and, accordingly, are not described in detail herein. According to a preferred method of representation, the original data is in a file with an extension '.meter' which corresponds to data downloaded from a glucose meter, while the keyed and indexed data is in a fil with an extension '.db'. The net result of the initialization procedur is to release data from previous runs, set global constants and load a .db databas file.

An Analyze module 58 is used to examine the database and perform various data analyses, the results of which are also stored in the databas . A Report module 60 uses the facts stored by the Analyze module 58 to generate a string of tokens which are fed through a Phrase-db module 62 into a Format module 64 which writes the report in an appropriate text form into a file which is ready to be processed for printing.

With particular reference to the Initialize module 56, it functions to erase data from previous runs and define and assert various constants as global variables. If no .db file corresponding to the given patient name is found to exist, it is an indication that the patient data is still in its original form and, accordingly, the corresponding downloaded .meter file is preprocessed and keyed. Each data record in the file is provided with a unique key and the key of the interval in which it resides. All days and all intervals within all days also get unique keys.

For example, in the case of a blood glucose record in the .meter file as listed below:

89 02 02 11 30 165 AA

the '.db' file would derive the following records:

bgc(bgc11,lunch4,dt(2/2/89,11:30),165)
kind(lunch4,lunch)
group(day4,[breakfast4, lunch4,
dinner3,bedtime4])
day(day4,2/2/89)

It should be noted that the above patient record specifies the measurement of a blood glucose level of 165 measured at 11:30 a.m. on February 2, 1989. The digits at positions AA represent markers set up by the patient during monitoring and identify predefined information such as a designated pre- or post-mealtime reading, test reading, etc.

The new records set forth above are asserted to the global database along with additional information as to which groups of keys are related. For example, a record listing all breakfast blood glucose keys would be asserted as below:

group(breakfast, bgc, [bgc0, bgc4, bgc8,
bgc12, bgc16]).

The Analyze module 58 is charged with the basic analysis of data stored within the database 52. The Analyze module 58 initially generates information corresponding to the overall blood glucose summary corresponding to the Glucose Measurement Summary illustrated at FIG. 4. This is accomplished by collecting information about blood glucose readings for each day and calculating the mean for the day, the highest and lowest values, whether or not the day contained an extremely high reading (defined according to a preferred embodiment to be ov r 375 mg/dl) or xtrem ly low read-

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ing (defined according to a preferred embodiment to be under 40 mg/dl), and the number of readings taken and the mealtimes at which they occurred.

The Analyze module 58 subsequently summariz s th insulin dosage information in order to generate the Insulin Dose Summary illustrated at FIG. 3. The object of the summarization process is to realize an insulin table having a predefined depth, preferably a 2-6 line table, with each line d scribing a different insulin regimen. The insulin dose information is summarized because it is important to see whether or not the different insulin regimens had any positive effect on the patient's blood glucose values. The length of the insulin table is restricted to the 2-6 line depth because it becomes difficult for a physician to compare too many items and draw any useful conclusions from an overly long table. In addition, if too many regim ns exist, the time they span becomes shorter and thus the number of data points (i.e., blood glucose readings) in each regimen also becomes smaller so that the outcomes of any statistical tests become less reliable.

Following the above-described summary, a more critical summary of blood glucose values is next performed by the Analyze module 58. More specifically, for each mealtime, the mean glucose level is found and compared with the target range for that mealtime. If the mean is too high, it is likely that the physician will look toward lowering it. If th re are any hypoglycemic values for that mealtime, lowering the average blood glucose value will probably result in more hypoglycemic values; accordingly, it is important that this fact be highlight d, and the module does so. Even if no hypoglycemic readings are found, it is possible where the spread of readings is very wide that there may be readings sufficiently low so as to become hypoglycemic with an overall lowering of blood glucose levels for that mealtime; again, it is important that these "potentially hypoglycemic" readings be noted, and the module does so.

In addition, for each mealtime, the Analyze module 58 characterizes the blood glucose distribution as being consistent or inconsistent depending primarily upon the spread of the distribution. If the distribution for a mealtime is classified as inconsistent, further analysis is performed and the blood glucose readings are divided into groups such that all readings within a group fall in the sam insulin period as determined by the insulin dosage summary. These groups of readings are then subjected to the statistical analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests which yield positive answers if the gr ups of blood glucose readings hav different probability distributions. If any ANOVA test is positive, subsequent tests for clinical significance are applied. Further, in ord r to assist in xplaining the change in blood glucose, ach group of readings is characterized, th difference between th two r levant insulin regimens is noted, and the corresponding most rel vant insulin change is determined.

In addition, for each such group of readings, the mean glucose level is found as well as the number of blood glucose readings above, below, and within the target range, the number of hypoglycemic readings, and the total number of readings in that group.

The Analyze module 58 further attempts to characterize any extremely high or extremely low readings and, for each reading, an attempt is made to identify an unusual insulin dose which may explain this extreme value. At this point, if an explanation has not been found for all high or low values, an attempt is made to characterize the group of high or low readings by insulin regimen, mealtime, and weekday vs. weekend classification. Preferably, in order to describe a group of extreme values according to one of these factors, say, insulin regimen, at least 0.6667 of the readings must belong to the same regimen. Where there is no grouping that applies to this threshold number for the group, an indication is provided that no explanation is available.

The Report module 60 generates a string of concept and control tokens which are used to generate the paper report. The concept tokens are IDDI-Prolog terms which are translated by the Phrase-db module while control tokens are used directly by the Format module 64 to generate graphs or tables. The operation of the Report module 60 consists primarily in the collection of the complex terms generated by the Analyze module 58.

The Phrase-db module 62 functions to process all relevant tokens with a threshold volume which is associated with each token and determines whether or not the token will be used to generate some output. Tokens not corresponding to this threshold volume are discarded. Further, in this module, concept tokens are translated into strings while control tokens are passed through unchanged with both kinds of tokens being stripped of their type (control or concept) before being passed to the Format module 64.

The Format module 64 receives a list of strings and IDDI-Prolog terms. The strings are directly written to an output file while the terms are processed individually to produce the output necessary to generate a requisite graph or table.

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4. LOGICAL SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS

The following section provides a description of the logical flow sequences associated with the operation of the IDDI system of this invention.

Referring now to FIG. 15, there is shown a flowchart providing an overview of the operational sequence for the IDDI system. Following start of the program, at step 1500, appropriate menus, windows and dialog boxes are set up for displaying the messages necessary for user interaction through the standard display and keyboard associated with the computer system on which the IDDI system is running.

The Main program calls the IDDI-Reader subprogram at step 1502. Reader essentially reads a glucose meter and creates a raw data file in a standard dump format. The subprogram obtains a patient name from the user, and the user is prompted to link the glucose meter into an input port (the RS-232 port) on the computer through an appropriate cable connection.

Subsequently, data stored in the glucose meter is downloaded and dumped into a data subfolder that is named in the configuration file for the system. The patient name is also written into a mode file which is also named in the configuration file. All files, such as data file and log files, that are created by IDDI-Reader as well as by other subprograms use the patient's name that is obtained from the dialog box as the base file name. Thus, the output file created by IDDI-Reader from the meter has a format of the type (patient-name).meter.

At step 1504, the program monitors the existence of an error which, at this junction, generally results during downloading of data from the glucose meter, possibly because of a loose connection in the interface cable or the like.

If no error is detected at step 1504, step 1506 is accessed where the Main program calls upon the subprogram IDDI-Prolog which constitutes the major data analysis section of the IDDI system. IDDI-Prolog essentially analyzes and interprets data existing in the patient output file in accordance with the fundamental architecture discussed in connection with FIG. 14. The action of the IDDI-Prolog subprogram generates both screen and file output, the primary value of the screen output being to track progress of the program. The output file is an ASCII file referenced by the patient name and generated in a language which is particularly adapted for optimum printing of text and graphics together. Preferably, the report generated by IDDI-Prolog is written in the TEX typesetting program which is in the public domain, as noted below.

Subsequently, at step 1508, an error check is made and if no error is found to exist, step 1510 is accessed where the Main program calls the IDDI-VirTex subprogram. IDDI-VirTex essentially functions to translate the TEX file created at step 1506 into a device-independent (Dvi) format in order that the graphics format contained within the file be portable across different device configurations.

The IDDI-VirTex program is a modified version of the public domain document formatting program known as TEX and developed by Donald Knuth of Stanford University. The TEX source code for UNIX systems, written in the WEB language is in the public domain and is available for a nominal media distribution charge from the University of Washington in Seattle. A public domain program known as WEB2C and written by Tim Morgan of University of California, Irvine, is available for converting WEB code into machine-generated "C" code. It will be understood by those skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that a working version of TEX can be created from the WEB2C output, and IDDI-VirTex is merely an adaptation of the WEB2C output as a port for the Apple-Macintosh® family of computers. Accordingly, program details regarding this and other standard adaptions of public domain programs are not disclosed herein.

Next, at step 1512, a check is made to see if any error resulted from the IDDI-VirTex translation sequence. If no error is found, step 1514 is accessed where the Main program calls the subprogram IDDI-DviALW for translating the Dvi file created by VirTex into a format, such as the well-known POSTSCRIPT format, which is capable of being understood by a laser printer. It should be noted that the DviALW is a public domain Dvi-to-POSTSCRIPT translator written by Nelson Beebe at the University of Utah, and comprises one of a large number of Dvi translators. This public domain program is modified, according to well-known porting techniques, for being adapted for use with the Macintosh® line of computers.

At step 1516, an error check is made with respect to the translation performed at step 1514 and, if no error is found to exist, the Main program calls the IDDI-Printer subprogram which essentially functions to read the POSTSCRIPT file and spool it for printing at a laser printer associated with the system computer. While other implementations will be obvious to those skilled in the art, according to a preferred implementation, IDDI-Printer is particularly adapted for spooling to an Apple LaserWriter® and is based on public domain code derived from a published article by Sak Wathanasin in the September, 1986 and January, 1988 issues of MacTutor magazine.

Subsequently, at step 1520, a check is made to identify any errors resulting in the spooling and printing process at step 1518 and, if no errors are found to exist, the program comes to an end at step 1522. If the error check at any of the previous

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check points is found to be positive, step 1524 is accessed and appropriate error messages ar displayed to the user and the program quits.

FIG. 16 is a flowchart illustrating the sequence of operations undergone by the IDDI-R ader subprogram. At st p 1600, IDDI-Reader displays a dialog box for entry of a patient name by the us r. Alternatively, the user is presented with the option of cancelling out of the subprogram. If the user opts to cancel, step 1612 is accessed where the program returns in an error mode. On the other hand, if the user provides a patient name for proceeding with the data analysis procedure, step 1602 is accessed where the patient name is stored in a mode file.

Subsequently, at step 1604, a dialog box is displayed for initiating the reading of data from a glucose meter or from an ASCII file already existing in the system database. If data is to be read from a glucose meter, step 1606 is accessed where a standard subroutine adapted to transfer data is called for dumping meter data into a file referenced by the input patient's name. Subsequently, a check is made at step 1608 for any dumping errors occurring in the downloading process at step 1606. If such an error is found, step 1612 is accessed and the program returns in error mode. Otherwise, step 1610 is accessed and the program returns in normal mode.

FIG. 17 is a flowchart illustrating the flow sequence associated with the IDDI-Prolog program. Th IDDI-Prolog program first initializes and preprocesses data contained in the input file with which it is provided, and builds a database using this information. This is accomplished at step 1700 in accordance with the functional aspects described above in connection with the Initialize module in FIG. 14.

IDDI-Prolog is adapted to function with input files corresponding to a '.meter' extension and comprising files created by downloading a glucose meter.

Subsequently, at step 1702, the file created at step 1700 is analyzed in accordance with the procedure described above in connection with the Analyze module in FIG. 14. More specifically, the patient data is analyzed to determine insulin regimen periods, group blood glucose readings (BGs), perform requisite statistical calculations and the ANOVA tests, determine clinically significant changes in blood glucose and associated most relevant insulin changes, and find extremely high/low BGs and explanations associated therewith.

Subsequently, at step 1704, the functions described above in connection with the Report module in FIG. 14 ar xecuted in order to produce a string of concept and control tok ns from th results of the analysis at step 1702.

N xt, at step 1706, the functions of the Phrase-db module in FIG. 14 are executed. More specifically, all tokens having associated values higher than a preset threshold are processed while the remaining tokens are discarded. In addition, the processed tokens are translated into text strings.

Subsequently, at step 1708, the functions of the Format module in FIG. 14 are executed whereby the text strings generated at step 1706 and related graphic control commands are written into an output file in the TEX format. Finally, at step 1710, the subprogram IDDI-Prolog returns to the Main program.

Referring now to FIG. 18, there is shown a flowchart highlighting the flow sequence involved in executing the functions of the Initialize module at step 1700 in FIG. 17. The Initialize module begins executing at step 1800 by clearing all global data structures. At step 1802, a determination is made as to whether or not a database file corresponding to the input patient name exists. If the answer is found to be positive, step 1803 is accessed where the corresponding .db file is loaded into main memory.

Next, step 1804 is accessed and control is returned to the IDDI-Prolog program. If the answer at step 1802 is negative, step 1806 is reached where the first record from the patient data file is read. At step 1808, a unique key is assigned to the day, the time interval in the day, and the reading corresponding to the record. At step 1810, the key of the time interval in which the reading exists is attached to the reading. Subsequently, at step 1812, the key of the reading is attached to a corresponding group list, such as a lunchtime list or a breakfasttime list.

Next, at step 1814, a check is made to see if all records in the patient data file have been processed. If the answer is found to be negative, i.e., additional records exist in the data file, the program reiterates steps 1806-1812 until the answer at step 1814 is found to be positive. This is an indication that all records in the patient data file have in fact been processed and, at that point, step 1816 is accessed where all the keyed data items are written into the database file corresponding to the patient name, and control is returned to the IDDI-Prolog program at step 1804.

FIG. 19 is a detailed flowchart of the operation sequence involved in executing the functions of the Analyze module in the flowchart of FIG. 17. Th module begins xecution at step 1900 by perform-

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ing the calculations necessary for generating the blood glucose (BG) Summary. More specifically, the following factors are calculated for each day:

1) the time interval in the day to which the BG readings correspond;

2) the highest, lowest and average values of the BGs; and

3) the extremely high (according to a preferred embodiment, greater than about 375 mg/dl) and extremely low (preferably, less than about 40 mg/dl) readings. It should be noted that other threshold values may be selected and either defined within the downloaded data from a glucose meter with sophisticated memory functions or supplied by the IDDI system user.

Subsequently, at step 1902, the processing necessary for generating insulin dosage information is accomplished in order to build an insulin table based on a plurality of 2-6 insulin regimens, preferably using the hierarchical relevance algorithm described above.

Next, at step 1904, the processing necessary for generating the necessary glucose control information is performed. More specifically, all BGs are grouped according to the identified insulin regimens and according to mealtimes within each regimen. Next, for each such group, the following are calculated: mean; deviation; number of BGs above target range; number of BGs within target range; number of BGs below target range; and number of hypoglycemic readings as defined, according to a preferred embodiment, by a BG reading less than 60 mg/dl.

Subsequently, at step 1906, calculations similar to those at step 1904 are performed for providing comparative glucose control information with respect to weekdays and weekend days. In accomplishing this, all BGs are grouped on a weekday/weekend day basis. Subsequently, for each such group, calculations identical to those performed at step 1904 are performed.

At step 1908, the processing necessary for generating BG results is performed. In particular, the target range, the mean and the standard deviation of BGs is found in each time interval of a day.

Initially, a tabular analysis of BGs is performed on an overall basis as well as for each mealtime showing whether the average BG was within the target range, and if not, how far above or below target it was, and how "spread out" or "variable" the readings were. Additional details pertaining to the manner in which BG results are generated will be discussed in detail below. In addition, the analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests are performed for identifying significant changes in BG levels. Corresponding descriptions are also generated at this point.

Subsequently, at step 1910, the processing necessary for identification and explanation of extreme BG values is performed. In particular, the BGs are tested to identify each extremely high or extremely low BG value and corresponding explanations are found using a procedure which will be described in detail below. In addition, at this point, three-day plot tokens are generated corresponding to each identified extreme value. These tokens are later used for generating corresponding sections of the output report. Subsequently, at step 1912, control is returned to the IDDI-Prolog program.

Referring now to FIG. 20A, there is shown a flowchart illustrating the processing details involved in a routine called "Insulin Dose Info" for executing the functions described at step 1902 in the Analyze flowchart of FIG. 19. The routine begins at step 2000 where the program starts with the assumption that only a single run comprising all days in the monitoring period exists, i.e., the daily readings in the patient data file correspond to a single insulin regimen.

Subsequently, at step 2002, readings are scanned from the first day to the last day of this initial run. The run is split at days when a sustained change from single to multiple shots of insulin (or vice versa) per day is detected. In this regard, a sustained change is defined to be a difference that occurs for more than a predefined threshold number of consecutive days. According to a preferred embodiment, this threshold number of days is defined to be three (3).

Subsequently, at step 2004, a check is made to see if the number of runs identified at step 2002 is greater than one. If the answer is positive, step 2006 is accessed where the program is set up to perform a series of operations for each one of the identified runs (Ri) in which a single insulin shot was taken. At step 2008, readings are scanned from the first day to the last day of the run and splits are made at days when a sustained change in amount of long-acting insulin is detected.

At step 2010, a check is made to see if the number of runs identified is greater than one. If the answer is found to be positive, the program accesses step 2012. If the answer at step 2010 is found to be negative, the possibly split run is recombined at step 2014.

Subsequently, at step 2015, readings within the run are scanned from the first day to the last day and the run is split at days when a sustained change in amount of intermediate-acting insulin is detected. At step 2016, it is determined whether or not the number of such runs of three or more days in duration is greater than one. If the answer is yes, step 2012 is accessed again.

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If the answ r at step 2016 is found to be negativ , the possibly split run is r combined at step 2017. Subsequently, at step 2018, readings within the run ar scanned and th run is split at days when a sustained change in amount of short-acting insulin is detected. Next, at st p 2019, a check is made to see if any runs of three or more days duration have resulted. If the answer is positive, the program accesses step 2012. If the answer at step 2019 is found to be negative, the program recombines the possibly split run at step 2020 and step 2012 is accessed.

If, however, it is found at 2004 that the number of runs exceeding three days in duration is merely one, step 2022 is accessed where the program begins the run splitting routine again by restarting under the assumption that only a single run comprising all days in the monitoring period exists. Subsequent processing is accomplished in accordance with the flow sequence shown at FIG. 20B.

At step 2024 in the flowchart of FIG. 20B, readings are scanned and the run is split at days when a sustained change in number of insulin shots is detected. Next, at step 2026, a check is mad as to whether any runs of three or more days duration have resulted. If the answer is found to be positive, step 2028 is accessed where the programs returns to the Analyze subprogram. If the answ r at step 2026 is found to be negative, the program begins the run splitting process again with a single run comprising all days in the monitoring period; this is done at step 2030.

Subsequently, at step 2031, readings within the run are scanned and the run is split at days when a sustained change in amount of long-acting insulin is detected. Next, at step 2032, a check is made to see if any runs of three or more days duration have resulted. If the answer is positive, the program returns at step 2028. If the answer at step 2032 is found to be negative, the program begins the run splitting process again at step 2033 using a single run of all days.

Subsequently, at step 2034, all readings in the run are scanned and the run is split at days when a sustained change in amount of intermediate-acting insulin is detected. Next, at step 2035, a check is made for the presence of runs with three or more days duration. If the answer is found to be positive, th program returns at step 2028. If, however, the answ r is found to be negative at step 2035, the run splitting process is begun again at step 2036 using a single run of all days.

Subsequently, at step 2038, all readings in the run are scanned and the run is split at days when a sustained chang in amount of short-acting insulin is detected. N xt, at step 2040, a check is made for the pr sence of runs with three or more days duration. If th answer is found to be positiv , the program r turns at step 2028. If, however, the answer is found to be negative at step 2040, the possibly split run is recombined at step 2042, and the program r turns to the Analyze subprogram at step 2028.

It should be noted that the flowchart of FIG. 20A shows the routin returning to the calling subprogram at step 2012 after performing steps 2008-2020 for each of the runs identified at step 2004, in accordance with the conditions set up at step 2006.

Referring now to FIGS. 21, 21A and 21B, there are shown flowcharts detailing the operational sequence involved in generating explanations for the presence of extreme BG values. The program begins at step 2100 where appropriate parameters are set for performing a series of processing operations for each identified extreme BG value (EBG). Next, at step 2102, the program determines the kind of insulin (TD, TP) which most likely affected the EBG; in this regard, TD represents the time interval of day, and TP represents the type of insulin.

Next, at step 2104, a check is made to see if an insulin record (INS-RCD) exists prior to the EBG which matches the identified insulin type (TD, TP). If the answer is positive, step 2106 is accessed where a check is made to see if a particular amount of insulin (the "usual amount", USL-AMT) was taken at least a threshold percentage (preferably, about 75%) of the time in the time intervals corresponding to TD and corresponding to the insulin type TP within the regimen corresponding to the EBG. For instance, if TD corresponds to lunchtime, the threshold check is made in all lunchtime intervals within the applicable insulin regimen. If the answer at 2106 is found to be positive, a check is made at step 2110 to see if the identified EBG is extremely high or extremely low.

If the answer at step 2110 indicates that the EBG was low, step 2112 is accessed where a check is made to see if the value of INS-RCD is greater than the value corresponding to USL-AMT. Following a positive answer at step 2112, step 2114 is accessed where the identified EBG is tagged with an explanation identifying it as an "unusually high dose."

If it is found at step 2110 that the identified EBG was high, a check is made at step 2116 to see if the value for INS-RCD is less than the value for USL-AMT. Following a positive answer at step 2116, step 2118 is accessed where the EBG at issue is tagged with an explanation identifying it as an "unusually low dose."

At th end of steps 2114 and 2118, as w ll as following a negativ answer at steps 2104, 2106, 2112, and 2116, st p 2120 is accessed where a check is made to see if all identified EBGs have been processed. If th answ r is found to be nega-

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tive, the program returns to step 2102 for r iterating the rest of the program until the answer at step 2120 is found to be positive. If the answer at step 2120 is positive, program xecution is continued according to the flowchart of FIG. 21A.

At step 2122, a check is made to see if all EBGs have been accounted for. If the answer is y s, a corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2124 and the program returns to the calling subprogram at step 2126. If the answer at step 2122 is found to be negative, all EBGs are compiled into a list (identified as EXT-LST) at step 2128. Next, at step 2130, the program determines wheth r all or most EBGs contained in that list occur in the same insulin period, and, if so, a corresponding explanation is generated. This is accomplished in accordance with a subroutine called Explain-A which will be described below.

N xt, at step 2132, the program determines wh ther all or most EBGs in the list occur in the same time interval of a day, and, if so, a corr sponding explanation is generated. This is accomplished in accordance with a subroutine called Explain-B to be described below. Next, at step 2134, the program determines if all or most EBGs in th list occur in weekdays or on weekends and, if so, a corresponding explanation is generated.

Subsequently, at step 2135, a check is made to s e if any explanations have been found. If the answ r is found to be positive, step 2136 is accessed where it is determined whether an explanation exists identifying the occurrence of all EBGs in the same insulin regimen period. If the answer at step 2136 is positive, step 2137 is accessed where the most relevant change between the identified insulin regimen period and an adjacent regimen period is identified, and a corresponding explanation generated.

Following step 2137 and if the answer at step 2136 is negative, step 2138 is accessed where the best possible explanations at that point are constructed. More specifically, explanations are ordered according to the number of EBGs covered thereby and the top explanations under such a ranking are selected. Subsequently, the program returns control to the Analyze subprogram at step 2126.

If the answer at step 2136 is found to be negative, i.e., no explanations are found to exist, the extreme values or EBGs are split according to insulin regimens and put into corresponding lists EXT-LST1, EXT-LST2, ... EXT-LSTn. This is performed at step 2140.

Next, at step 2142, the operations performed in accordance with the routin Explain-B (see step 2132) ar sequentially performed for all EBGs in each of these lists.

The following sequence of operations is described in connection with the flowchart of FIG. 21B where, at step 2144, similar operations ar performed in accordanc with the routine Explain-C to be described below. Next, at step 2146, the EBGs are split according to time intervals of a day and put into corresponding lists.

Next, at step 2148, the operations corresponding to the routine Explain-A are performed for each such list. At step 2150, the operations corresponding to the routine Explain-C are performed for each such list. At step 2152, corresponding explanations are constructed, and at step 2154, the EBGs are split by weekday/weekend days and put into corresponding lists.

At step 2156, the operations corresponding to routine Explain-A are performed for each such list. Next, at step 2158, operations corresponding to the routine Explain-B are performed for each such list and, at step 2160, corresponding explanations are constructed.

At step 2162, a check is made to see if any explanations are, in fact, present. If the answer is found to be negative, the program returns control to the Analyze subprogram at step 2164. If, however, some explanations are found to exist at step 2162, step 2166 is accessed where the "best" explanations are constructed on the basis of the highest number of EBGs covered thereby.

Referring now to FIG. 22, there is shown a flowchart illustrating the sequence of operations corresponding to the routine Explain-A referred to in the flowcharts of FIGS. 21A-B. At step 2200, a check is made to see if all the EBGs in the list being considered fall within the same insulin regimen. If the answer is found to be positive, the corresponding explanation is constructed at 2202 and the program returns to the Analyze subprogram at step 2204.

If the answer at step 2200 is found to be negative, a check is made at step 2206 to see if more than a given threshold percentage (preferably, about 66.6%) of the EBGs in the list fall within the same insulin regimen. If the answer is positive, a check is made at step 2208 to see if the EBGs are also within the same time interval of day. If the answer is found to be positive, the corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2210 and step 2212 is accessed where a check is made to see if these EBGs all fall either within weekdays or on weekends.

If the answer at step 2212 is found to be positiv , a corresponding explanation is generated at 2214. At the end of step 2214, as well as at the generation of negative answ rs at steps 2206 and 2212, th program r turns at step 2204. Furth r, if the answ r at st p 2208 is found to be negativ , the program reiterat s from step 2212.

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Ref rring now to FIG. 23, ther is shown a flowchart of operations corresponding to the routine Explain-B. At step 2300, a check is mad to see if all the EBGs in the list correspond to th same time interval of day. If the answer is positive, the corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2302 and the program returns to the subprogram at step 2304.

Following a negative answer at step 2300, step 2306 is accessed where a check is made to see if more than a given threshold percentage (preferably, about 66.6%) of the EBGs in the list fall within the same time interval of a day. If the answer is positive, a check is made at step 2308 to see if these EBGs also fall within the same insulin regimen. If the answer is again positive, the corresponding explanation is constructed at 2310 and step 2312 is accessed where a check is made to see if the EBGs fall within weekdays or within weekends. Next, corresponding explanations are constructed at step 2314 following which the program returns to the subprogram at step 2304.

The program also returns at step 2304 following negative answers at steps 2306 and 2312. In addition, if the answer at step 2308 is found to be negative, step 2312 and the following steps are accessed.

Referring now to FIG. 24, there is shown a flowchart corresponding to the operational sequence for the routine Explain-C. At step 2400, a check is made to see if all the EBGs in the list fall on weekdays or on weekends. If the answer is positive, the corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2402, and the program returns at step 2406.

Following a negative answer at step 2400, step 2408 is accessed where a check is made to see if more than a given threshold percentage (preferably about 66.6%) of the EBGs in the list fall either on a weekday or on the weekend. If the answer is positive, a check is made at step 2410 to see if the EBGs also fall within the same insulin regimen. If the answer is again found to be positive, a corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2412. Subsequently, step 2414 is accessed where a check is made to see if the EBGs also fall within the same time interval of day and, if so, the corresponding explanation is constructed at step 2416 before the program returns to the subprogram at step 2406.

Step 2406 is also accessed if the answers at steps 2408 and 2414 are found to be negative. Further, if the answer at step 2410 is found to be negative, i.e., the EBGs do not fall within the sam insulin regimen period, steps 2414 and the following steps ar accessed.

FIG. 25 is a flowchart illustrating the mann r in which the insulin type most likely to have effected an extreme blood glucose value is determined. At step 2500, th time int rval of a day in which the given EBG occurred is noted. If the time interval is found to correspond to breakfasttime, a corresponding rule set for breakfast EBGs is accessed at step 2502.

If the time interval is found to correspond to lunchtime, a corresponding rule set for lunch EBGs is accessed at step 2504. If the time interval is found to correspond to suppertime, a corresponding rule set for supper EBGs is accessed at step 2506 and if the time interval is found to correspond to bedtime, a corresponding rule set for bedtime EBGs is accessed at step 2508.

Referring now to FIG. 26, there is an illustration of the rule set for breakfast EBGs. The rule set is self-explanatory and provides an indication of the hierarchy according to which the influencing factors are identified. For instance, if it is determined that bedtime NPH insulin was being taken within the relevant time frame for the EBG, that type of insulin is identified as the most influencing factor. If bedtime NPH insulin was not being taken, the program hierarchically tests to see if bedtime LENTE insulin, supper NPH insulin, supper LENTE insulin, bedtime regular insulin, lunch NPH insulin, lunch LENTE insulin, breakfast NPH insulin, or breakfast LENTE insulin was being taken. Following the presence of any such factors, the corresponding type of insulin is identified as being the most influencing factor.

FIG. 27 shows a similar rule set applicable to lunch EBGs. In this case, the influencing factor hierarchy begins with breakfast regular insulin and continues down through bedtime NPH, bedtime LENTE, breakfast NPH, breakfast LENTE, supper NPH, supper LENTE, lunch NPH, and lunch LENTE types of insulin.

Referring now to FIGS. 28-28A, there are shown flowcharts identifying the manner in which blood glucose results are determined and tabulated in accordance with step 1908 of the Analyze routine of FIG. 19. At step 2800, the program takes steps for performing a series of processing operations for each time interval within each day at issue. At step 2802, the BG target range is found. At step 2804, the corresponding mean and standard deviation is calculated. At step 2806, the distance "MD" between the mean and the nearest end of the target range is calculated.

At step 2808, a determination is made as to whether or not (i) th calculated mean exceeds th upper end of the target range and (ii) a specified thr shold percentage (pr ferably 8%) or mor of th BGs in th time int rval ar hypoglycemic, i. ., at a l vel less than 60 mg/dl. If the answ r is found

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to be negative, step 2810 is accessed where a determination is made as to whether or not (i) the calculated mean exceeds the upper end of the target range and (ii) a thr shold percentage (pr f rably 8%) or more of the BGs have a value less than the sum of 60 plus the value MD mg/dl. If the answer at step 2810 is found to be positive, statements of complicating factors and number of potential hypos are constructed at step 2812.

If the answer at step 2808 is found to be positive, corresponding statements of complicating factors and number of actual hypos are constructed at step 2809. At the end of steps 2809 and at the generation of a negative answer at step 2810, step 2814 is accessed where corresponding descriptions of BGs in the time interval at issue are generated. In particular, the mean is identified as being too high, too low or within range and the standard deviation is identified as being too wide, if that is found to be the case.

Subsequently, at step 2816, a BG value identified as HI-95 is determined by first discarding the top 5% of the BGs associated with the time interval after they have been ranked in terms of highest to lowest values, and then picking the highest BG value to be HI-95. Similarly, at step 2818, a BG value identified as LO-5 is extracted by first discarding the bottom 5% of the BGs after they have been similarly ranked and then picking the lowest BG value to be LO-5. Next, at step 2820, a determination is made as to whether or not the HI-95 and LO-5 BGs are outside a consistent threshold. If the answer is found to be positive, step 2822 is accessed (see FIG. 28A) where the BGs in the time interval are grouped according to insulin regimens and time intervals within each regimen, and at step 2824, the mean and standard deviation are calculated for each new group.

Subsequently, step 2826 is accessed where the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test is performed to identify a statistically significant change in BGs. At step 2828, a check is made to see if any ANOVA test result was positive. If the answer is found to be positive, step 2830 is applied where pred fined screen rules are applied to filter out non-clinically significant changes. Details about these screen rules are described below with reference to FIG. 30. Next, at step 2832, the remaining significant changes are analyzed to find the most relevant insulin changes between two corresponding insulin regimens. This function is preferably performed according to the flow sequence described above in connection with sub-routine of FIG. 25.

Following st p 2832, as w ll as if all th ANOVA tests at step 2828 ar found to be negativ , st p 2834 is accessed wh re the r sults g nerated to that point ar saved in th Main system memory. Next, at step 2836, a check is mad to see if all time intervals have been analyzed. If the answer is negative, the program returns to step 2802 and xecutes all following steps sequentially. If the answer is found to be positive, the program returns at step 2838.

Referring now to FIGS. 29-29B, the operational sequence involved in executing the Format module is described in detail and generating the IDDI data interpretation report described above in connection with FIGS. 2-12. At step 2900, text strings and control commands are written for generating the "Global Summary" section of the data interpretation report along with brief descriptions of the overall glycemic control. Next, at step 2902, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Insulin Dose Summary" section of the data interpretation report along with the associated insulin table.

Next, at step 2904, text strings and graphic control commands are written for the "Glucose Measurement Summary" section of the data interpretation report including daily high, average and low BGs, daily BG test information, extremely high and low readings, target range, insulin regimen periods, and life-style markers, if any.

Subsequently, at step 2906, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "BG Summary" section of the data interpretation report along with comments on the mean and spread in the time intervals of a day, distance from goal in each time interval, and complicating factors in each time interval.

Next, at step 2908, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "BG By Meal Time" section of the data interpretation report along with the associated mean, standard deviation and target according to the five time intervals, histograms in each time interval, and the number of hypos and tests in each time interval.

Next, at step 2910, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "BG By Weekday Versus Weekend" section of the data interpretation report along with the associated information.

Next, at step 2912, a check is made to see if there are any tokens identifying significant changes in overall BG levels. If the answer is positive, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Overall BG Summary" section of the data interpretation chart along with the most relevant insulin changes for corresponding regimen periods, associated mean, standard deviation, number of hypos and tests in each corresponding regimen, and the histogram for each corresponding regim n.

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At the end of step 2914 and following a negative answ r at step 2912, step 2916 is accessed wher a check is made for the pres nce of tokens corresponding to a significant change in breakfast BG levels. If the answer is found to be positive, t xt strings and graphic control commands are written at step 2918 for generating the "Breakfast" section of the data interpretation chart along with the associated information.

At the end of step 2918 and following a negative answer at step 2916, step 2920 is accessed where a check is made for the presence of tokens corresponding to a significant change in lunch BG levels. If the answer is found to be positive, step 2922 is accessed where text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Lunch" section of the data interpretation report along with the associated information.

At the end of step 2922 and following a negative answer at step 2920, a check is made at step 2924 for the presence of tokens corresponding to a significant change in supper BG levels. If the answer is found to be positive, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Supper" section of the data interpretation report along with the associated information.

At the end of step 2926 and following a negative answer at step 2924, a check is made at step 2930 (see FIG. 29B) for the presence of tokens identifying a significant change in bedtime BG levels. If the answer is found to be positive, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Bedtime" section of the data int rpretation report along with the associated information. This is accomplished at step 2932. At th end of this step, as well as following a negative answer at step 2930, step 2934 is accessed where a check is made for the presence of tokens corresponding to the presence of extremely high or low BGs.

If the answer at step 2934 is found to be positive, text strings and graphic control commands are written for generating the "Extreme Values" section of the data interpretation report along with th associated data shown. This is accomplished at step 2936 at the end of which, as well as following a negative answer at step 2934, the program returns in normal mode at step 2938.

Referring now to FIG. 30, there is shown a flowchart illustrating the manner in which screen rules based on clinical knowledge are used for filtering the statistically significant blood glucose values identified following the performance of the series of ANOVA tests in order to focus only upon the clinically significant blood glucose r sults. It should be noted that the bjectiv behind the filtering operation is to suppr ss th presentation of positive ANOVA results in th data interpretation report where the identified changes are statistically significant but clinically irrelevant, so that the reviewing physician is not presented with data which is likely to be of littl assistance in therapeutic decision making. Such clinically irrelevant results are not included in the graphical section of the data interpretation report although the associated statistical results may still be useful in pursuing additional data analyses.

In essence, the screen rules are based on advice from clinical experts as to how different do blood glucose values need to be in order to be clinically interesting. It was found that the size of a clinically significant difference depends on the location of the mean blood glucose values and the patient's target range. For instance, mean blood glucose readings in the upper ranges (preferably, greater than 250 mg/dl) may differ by a larger amount than mean blood glucose readings at lower ranges before becoming clinically relevant. In patients attempting to achieve "tight control" (corresponding to blood glucose readings, for instance, between 80 and 120 mg/dl), smaller differences in mean blood glucose readings are more relevant than in patients attempting to achieve mere "fair control" (for instance, blood glucose readings between 100 and 160 mg/dl).

As described above, the ANOVA tests identify statistical differences in two or more sets of blood glucose values, each set having an associated mean and standard deviation in these values. According to a feature of this invention, the clinical relevance of a positive ANOVA result is examined by studying the absolute differences between the highest and lowest mean blood glucose values for corresponding groups of readings in adjacent insulin regimens. As shown in FIG. 30, following the occurrence of a positive ANOVA test result, a set of parameters, including the absolute differences between the higher and lower compared mean blood glucose values, are identified at step 3000. More specifically, a difference mean value DM is calculated as being equal to HI__M - LO__M, where HI__M and LO__M correspond respectively to the higher and lower ones of a mean value M1 corresponding to the mean BG for a group in an insulin regimen and a mean value M2 corresponding to the mean BG for a corresponding group in the adjacent insulin regimen. At this stage, a difference target value DT is identified as the difference between high and low target values corresponding to the patient's BG control goal.

Subsequently, at step 3002, the first screen rul is applied, whereby the positiv ANOVA result is ignored if th diff rence between the higher and lower mean BG, i.e., DM, is found to be less than 50 mg/dl and th lower mean value BG LO__M is found to be gr ater than 200 mg/dl. Thus, if the

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rule condition at step 3002 is satisfied, step 3010 is accessed, where the positive ANOVA r sult is ignored and the program r turns to continue with the rest f the data interpr tation analyses.

The second screen rule is applied at step 3004, whereby the associated ANOVA result is ignored if the difference mean value DM is found to be less than 20 mg/dl and the lowest mean BG LO_M is found to be between 100 mg/dl and 200 mg/dl. Again, if the rule condition is satisfied, step 3010 is accessed.

The third screen rule is applied at step 3004, whereby the associated ANOVA result is not ignored if the lowest mean BG LO_M is found to be less than 100 mg/dl. If this rule condition is satisfied, the change associated with the ANOVA result is id ntified as being clinically relevant and the program returns at step 3010, and the associated graphical section of the data interpretation report is generated subsequently.

The fourth screen rule is applied at step 3008, whereby, in the case where "tight control" is being attempted, as indicated by the difference target value DT being less than a predefined threshold value (for instance, about 40 mg/dl), a difference mean value DM greater than 20 mg/dl is reported irrespective of the size of the actual mean BG values. Thus, if the rule at step 3008 is satisfied, the associated ANOVA result is not ignored and the program returns at step 3010, and the associated graphical section of the data interpretation report is generated subsequently.

Following the application of the fourth screen rule, a default rule is applied at step 3009 to determine if all four previous rules have not been satisfied and, if so, the associated ANOVA result is not ignored and is identified as being clinically significant. The program returns at step 3010 and the associated graphical section of the report is subsequently generated.

It should be noted that the threshold blood glucose values identified in the screen rules shown at st ps 3002-3008 are provided for illustrative purposes only, and may be varied in accordance with application-specific and patient-specific factors.

Claims

1. A method for automated diabetes data interpretation by processing recorded diabetes patient data, including data corresponding to blood glucose levels and insulin therapy for a diabetic patient taken over a period of time, said interpretation method comprising the steps of:

   i) downloading said diabetes data including glucose/insulin data from a glucos met r or th like;

   ii) processing said diabet s data to

   a) identify insulin intake r gimens corresponding to predefined significant changes in insulin therapy which are sustained for at least a predefined segment of said time period,

   b) identify resulting statistically significant changes in glucose levels within said identified insulin regimen periods, and

   c) identify clinically significant changes in glucose levels from said identified statistically significant changes;

   and

   iii) generating an output highlighting the results of said diabetes data processing step, including details pertaining to said identified insulin regimens and said clinically significant changes in glucose levels.

2. The automated diabetes data interpretation method according to claim 1 wherein the step of processing further includes the step of identifying the most significant insulin change associated with each identified clinically significant glucose change.

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FIG. 1

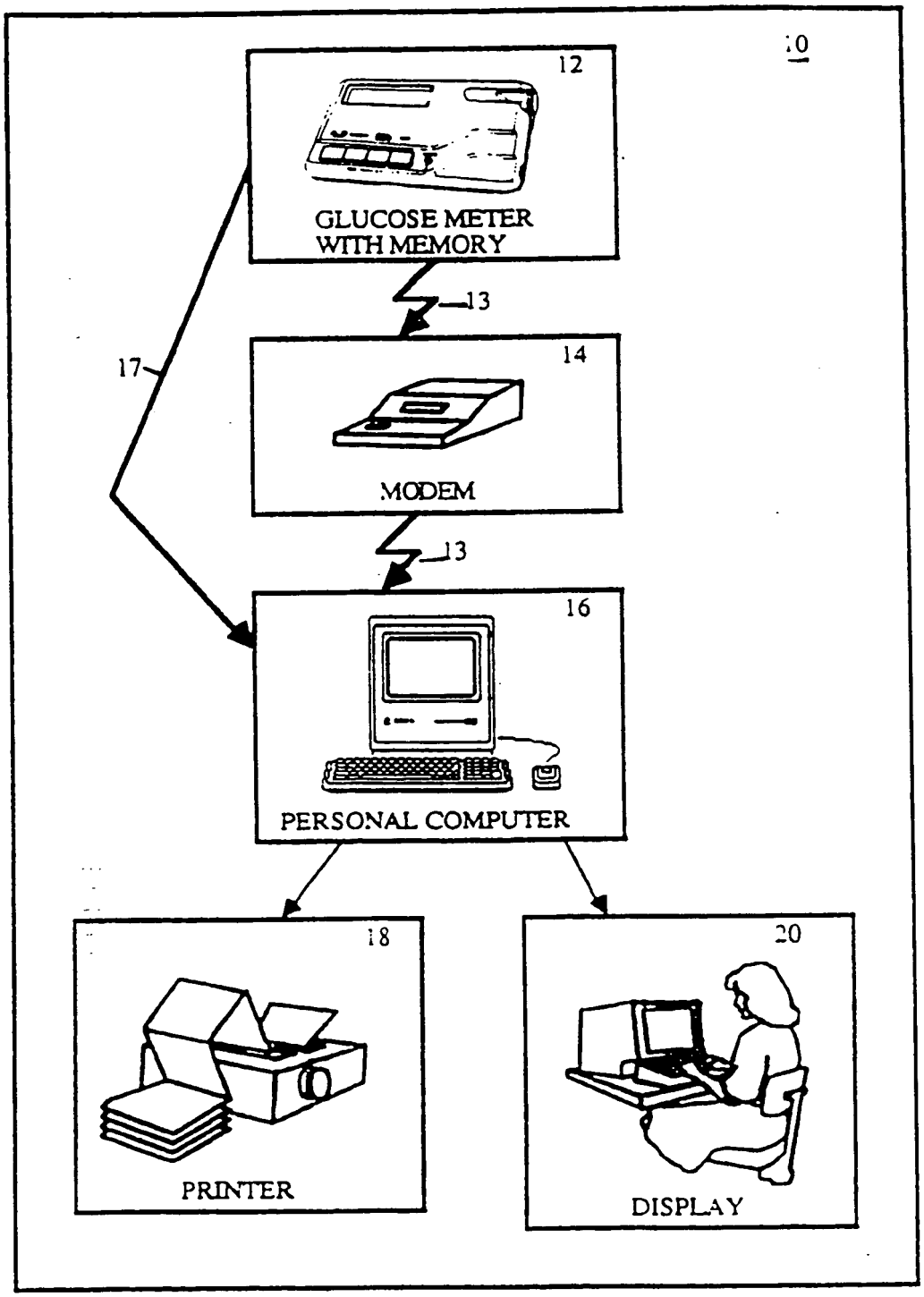

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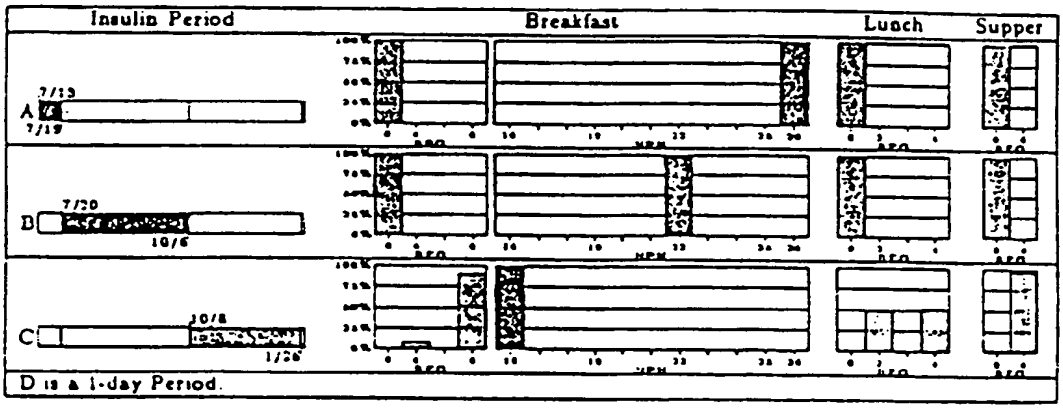
FIG. 2

Global Summary:

- There were 4 insulin regimens of which 3 statistically had different effects on blood glucose values overall and at lunch, supper and bedtime.
- The average blood glucose of 138 mg/dl was higher than the upper limit of the patient's prescribed target range of 120 mg/dl.
- No blood glucose values above 375 mg/dl were recorded.
- Extremely low (below 40 mg/dl) blood glucose values occurred at lunch and bedtime.

FIG. 3

Insulin Dose Summary:



EDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 2A

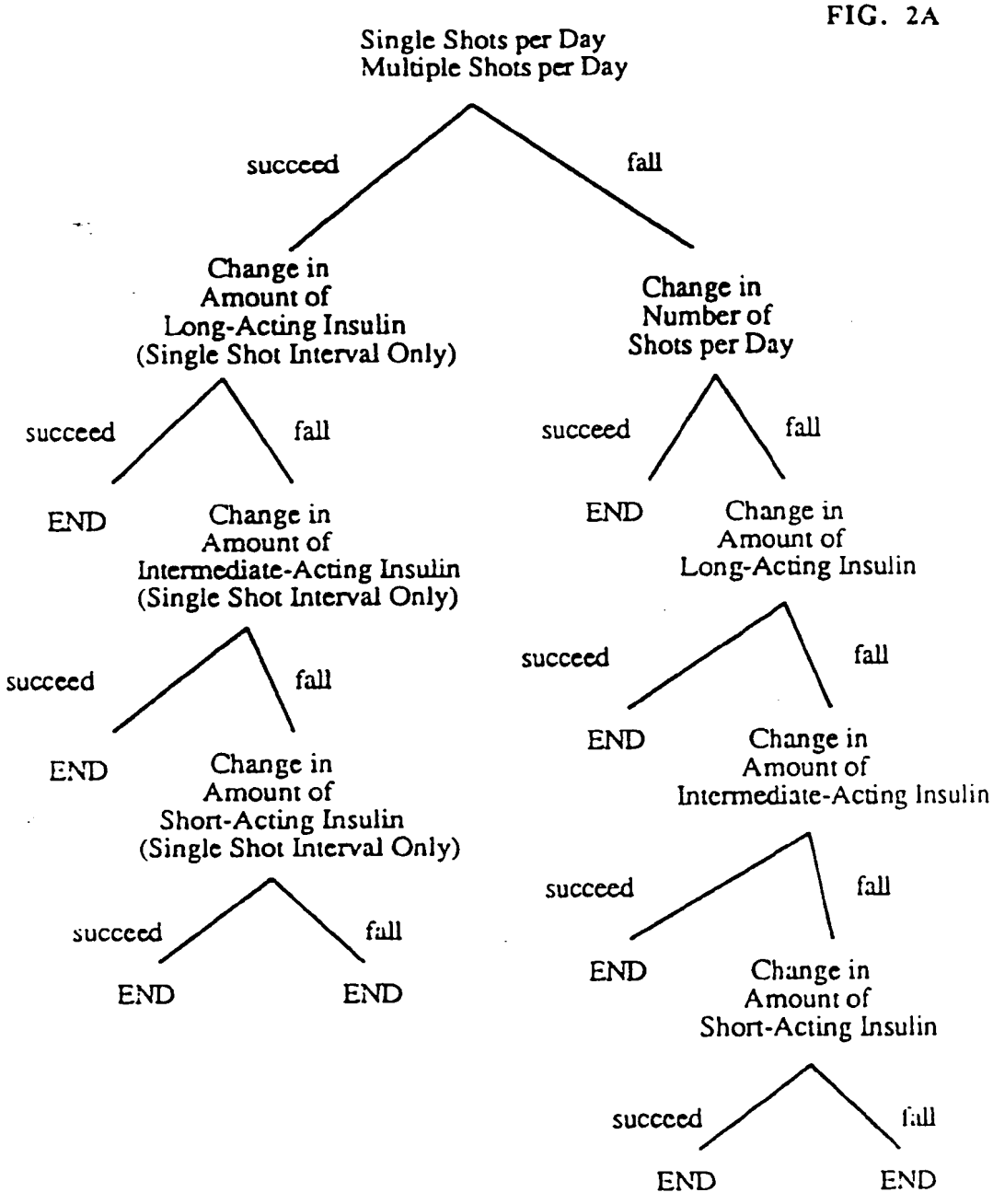
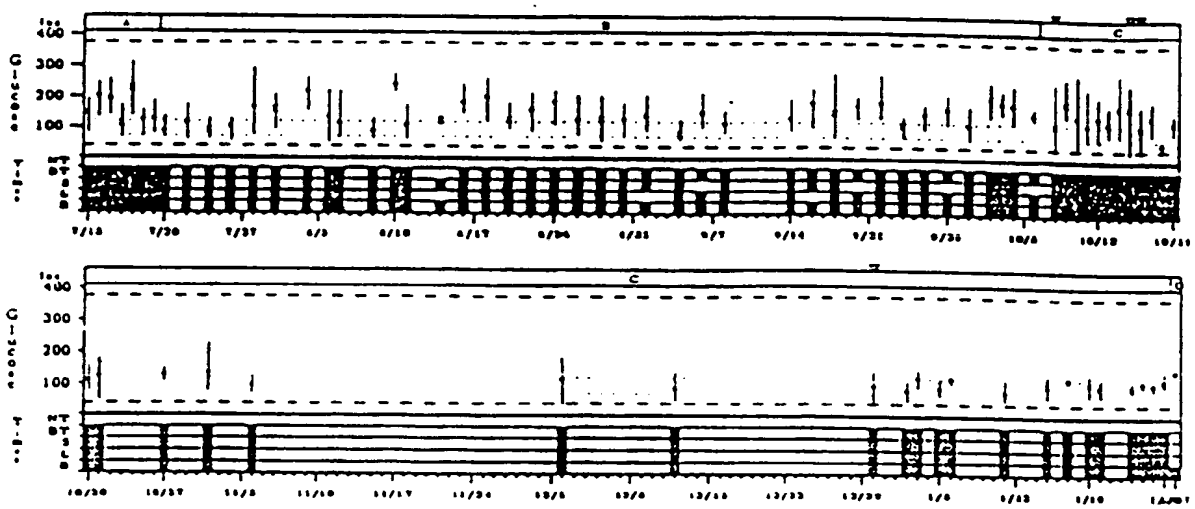

Single Shots per Day
Multiple Shots per Day
succeed
fall
Change in Amount of Long-Acting Insulin (Single Shot Interval Only)
Change in Number of Shots per Day
succeed
fall
END
Change in Amount of Intermediate-Acting Insulin (Single Shot Interval Only)
Change in Amount of Long-Acting Insulin
Change in Amount of Short-Acting Insulin (Single Shot Interval Only)
Change in Amount of Intermediate-Acting Insulin
Change in Amount of Short-Acting Insulin

FIG. 4

Glucose Measurement Summary:



† Average weekday blood glucose (mg/dl) showing daily range
† Average weekend day blood glucose (mg/dl) showing daily range
▾ Day contains a reading below extreme range
▴ Day contains a reading above extreme range
• Day contains hypoglycemic symptoms
D+/- Day contains increase/decrease in food
I+/- Day contains increase/decrease in insulin
E• Day contains exercise

– Extreme high (375 mg/dl)
– Target range (70-120 mg/dl)
– Extreme Low (40 mg/dl)

FIG. 5

BG Summary:

Qualitative Summary

	Overall	Breakfast	Lunch	Supper	Bedtime
Mean	—— too high ——				
Spread	—— too wide ——				

Therapeutic Issues

Distance from goal*	+18 mg/dl	+7 mg/dl	+9 mg/dl	+30 mg/dl	+26 mg/dl
Complicating Factors	—	—	8/75 actual hypos•	16/74 potential hypos†	13/77 potential hypos†

*Distance between mean glucose in period and nearest end of patient's target range
•Observed in this data set
†Expected if current values all shifted down by 'Distance from Goal'

FIG. 6

BG by Mealtime:

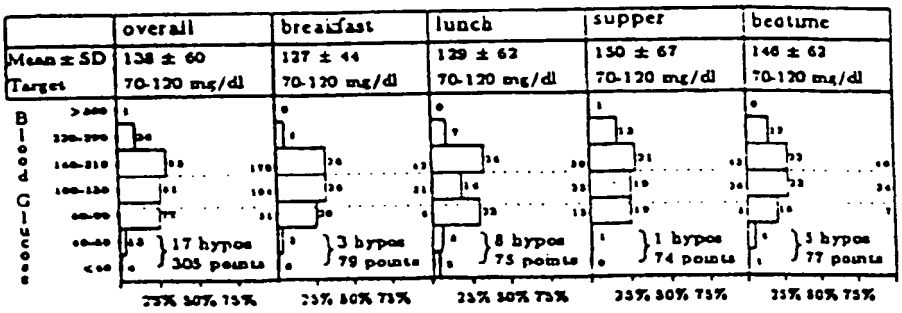


FIG. 7

BG by Weekday vs. Weekend:

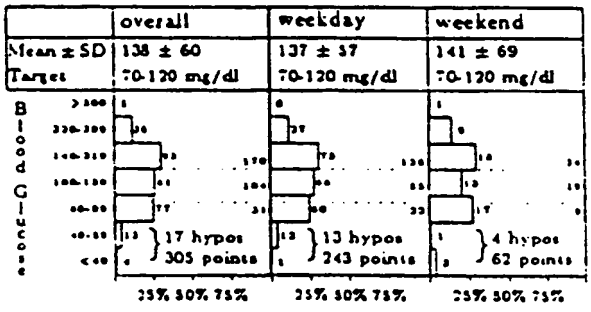
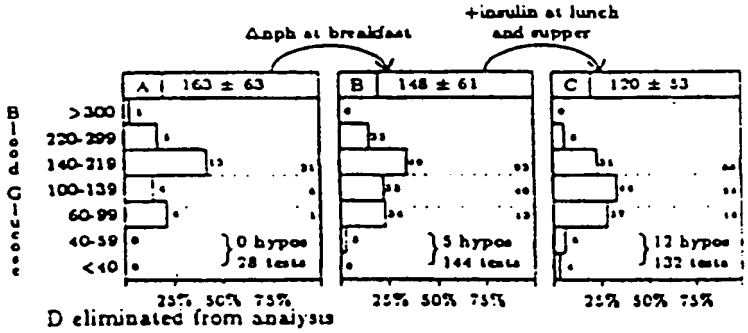


FIG. 8

Overall:



D eliminated from analysis

NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 9

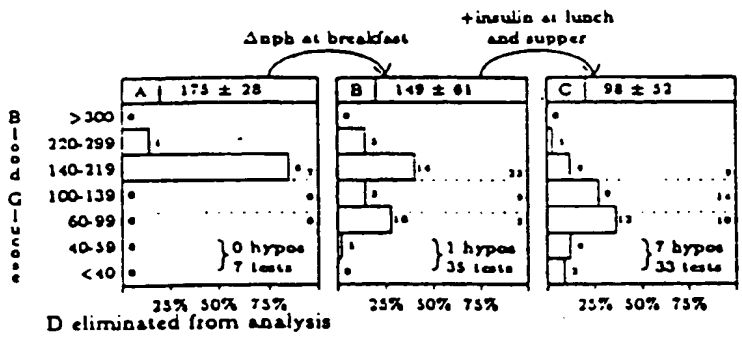


FIG. 10

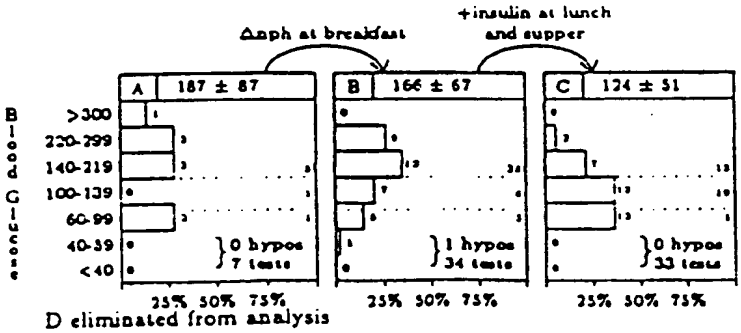
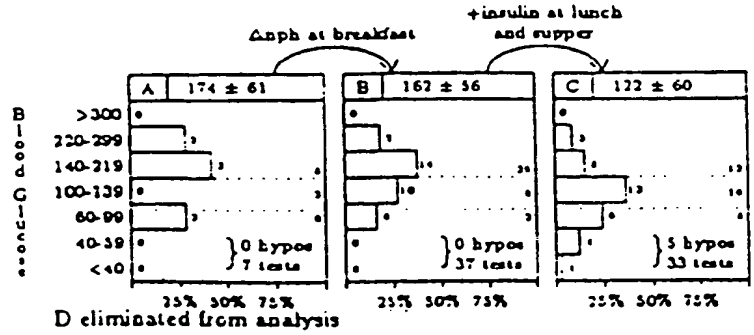


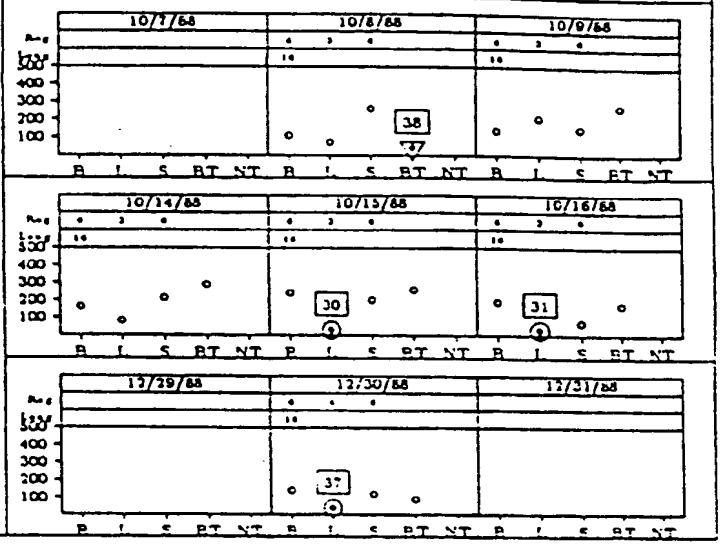
FIG. 11



DOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 12

Extreme Values:

Extremely Low Values	
Discussion	Three-Day Plot
All low lunch blood glucose values during insulin regimen C (10/8/88-1/26/89), may have been caused by changing reg insulin from 0 units at breakfast in B (7/20/88-10/6/88) to 6 units in C. The low bedtime blood glucose values during insulin regimen C (10/8/88-1/26/89), may have been caused by changing reg insulin from 0 units at supper in B (7/20/88-10/6/88) to 6 units in C.	

NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 13

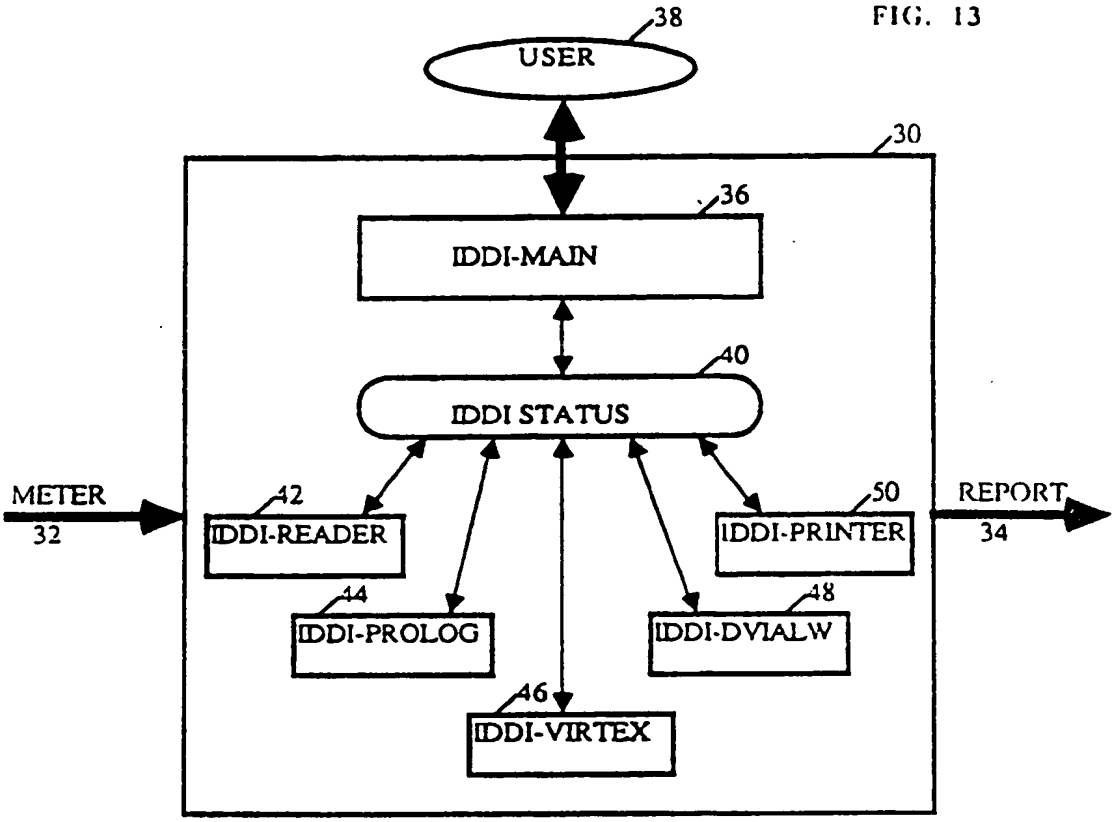

38
USER
30
36
IDDI-MAIN
40
IDDI STATUS
METER
32
42
IDDI-READER
44
IDDI-PROLOG
46
IDDI-VIRTEX
50
IDDI-PRINTER
48
IDDI-DVIALW
REPORT
34

FIG. 14

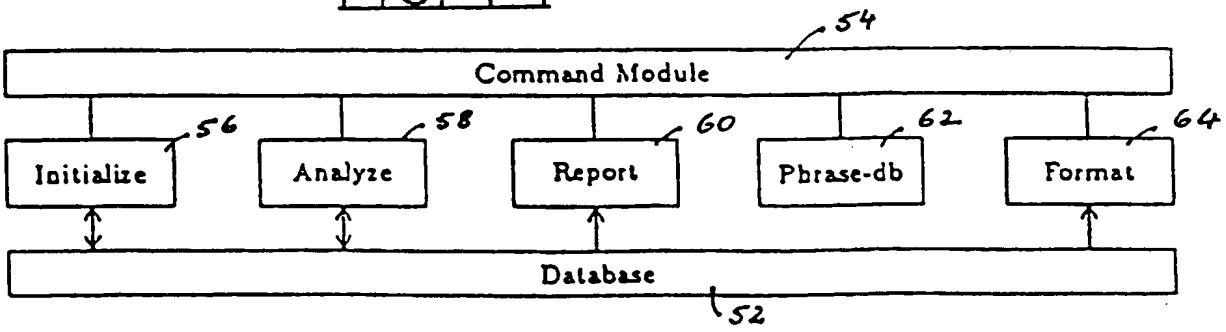

54
Command Module
56
Initialize
58
Analyze
60
Report
62
Phrase-db
64
Format
Database
52

FIG. 15

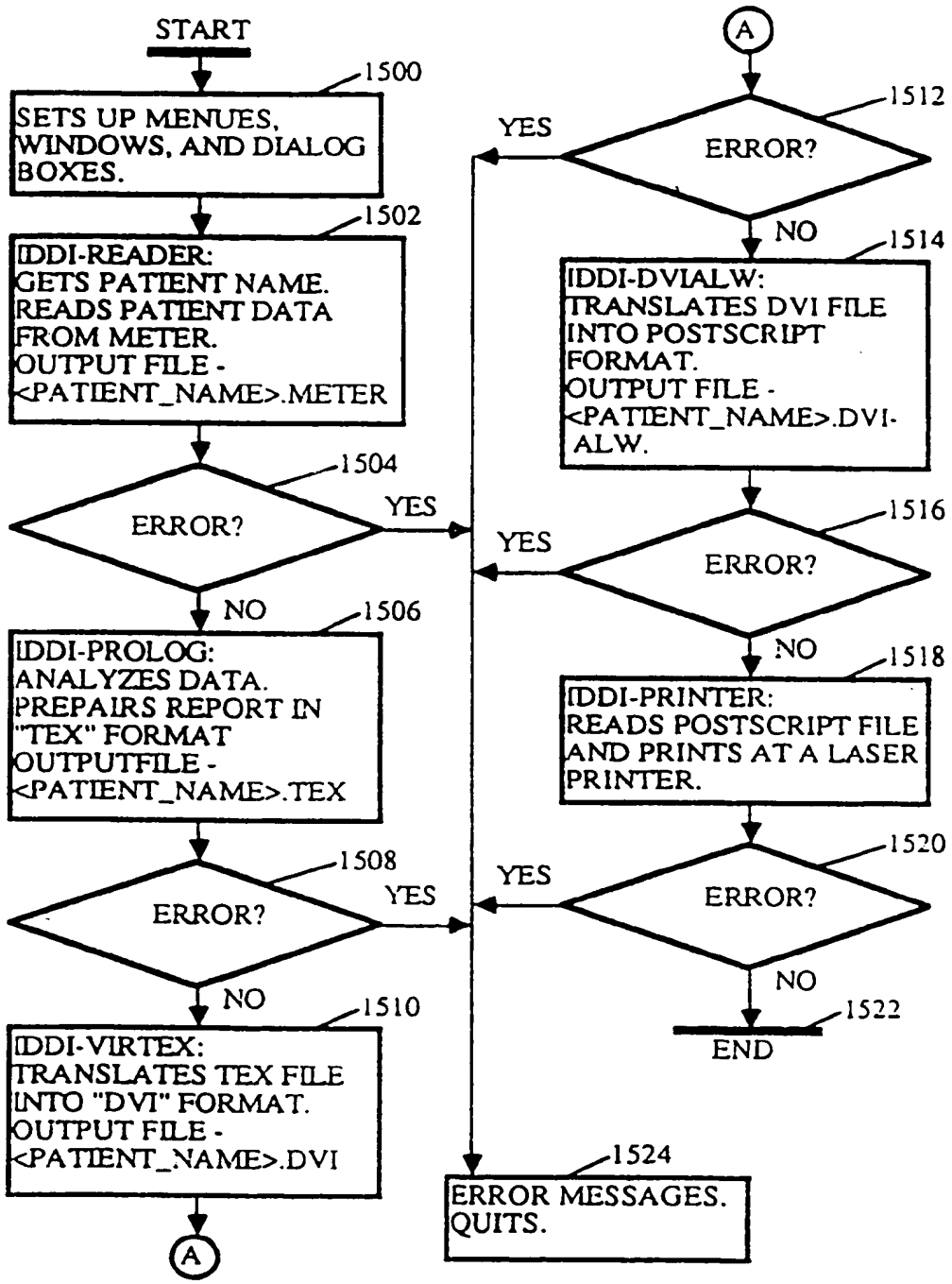
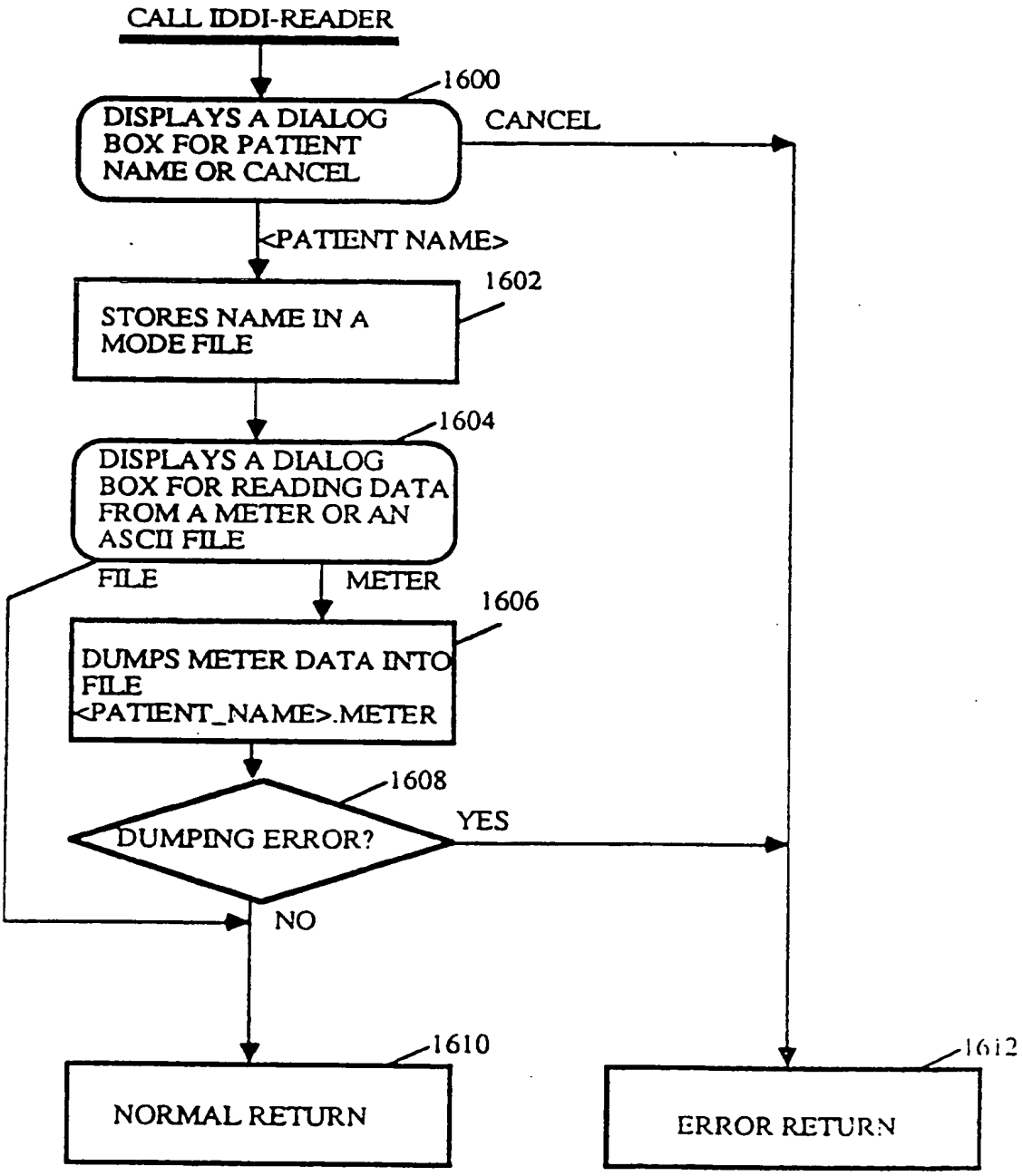
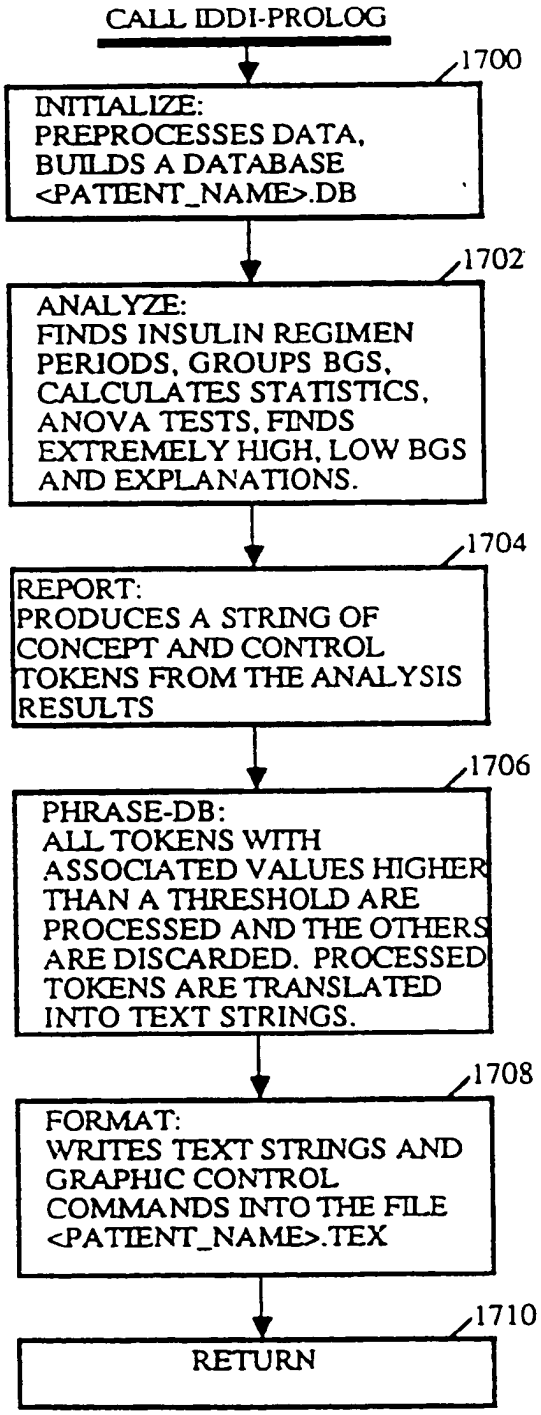

START
1500
SETS UP MENUES, WINDOWS, AND DIALOG BOXES.
1502
IDDI-READER:
GETS PATIENT NAME.
READS PATIENT DATA FROM METER.
OUTPUT FILE -
<PATIENT_NAME>.METER
1504
ERROR?
YES
NO
1506
IDDI-PROLOG:
ANALYZES DATA.
PREPAIRS REPORT IN "TEX" FORMAT
OUTPUTFILE -
<PATIENT_NAME>.TEX
1508
ERROR?
YES
NO
1510
IDDI-VIRTEX:
TRANSLATES TEX FILE INTO "DVI" FORMAT.
OUTPUT FILE -
<PATIENT_NAME>.DVI
A
A
1512
ERROR?
YES
NO
1514
IDDI-DVIALW:
TRANSLATES DVI FILE INTO POSTSCRIPT FORMAT.
OUTPUT FILE -
<PATIENT_NAME>.DVI-ALW.
1516
ERROR?
YES
NO
1518
IDDI-PRINTER:
READS POSTSCRIPT FILE AND PRINTS AT A LASER PRINTER.
1520
ERROR?
YES
NO
1522
END
1524
ERROR MESSAGES.
QUITS.

FIG. 16



DOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 17



NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 18

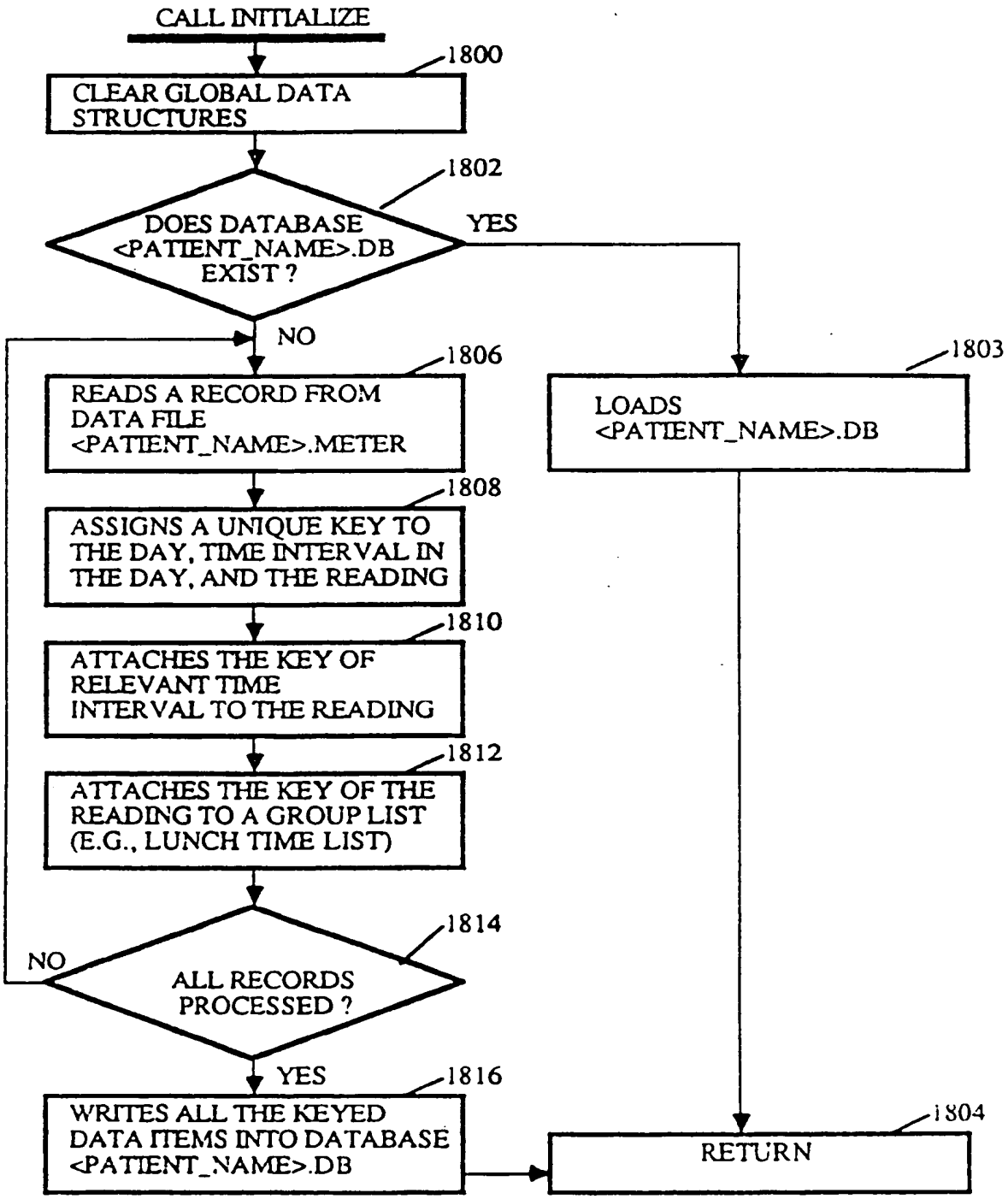
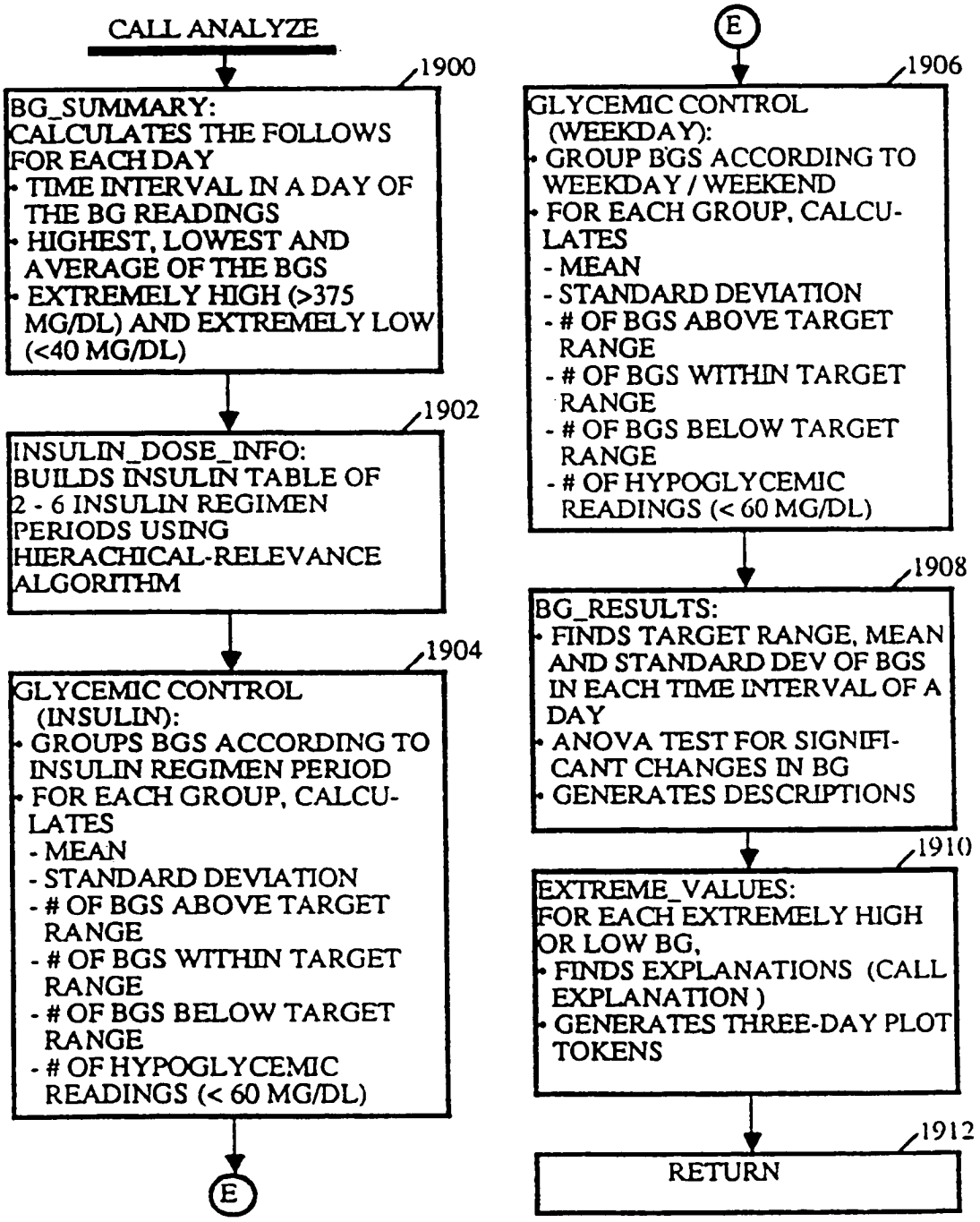
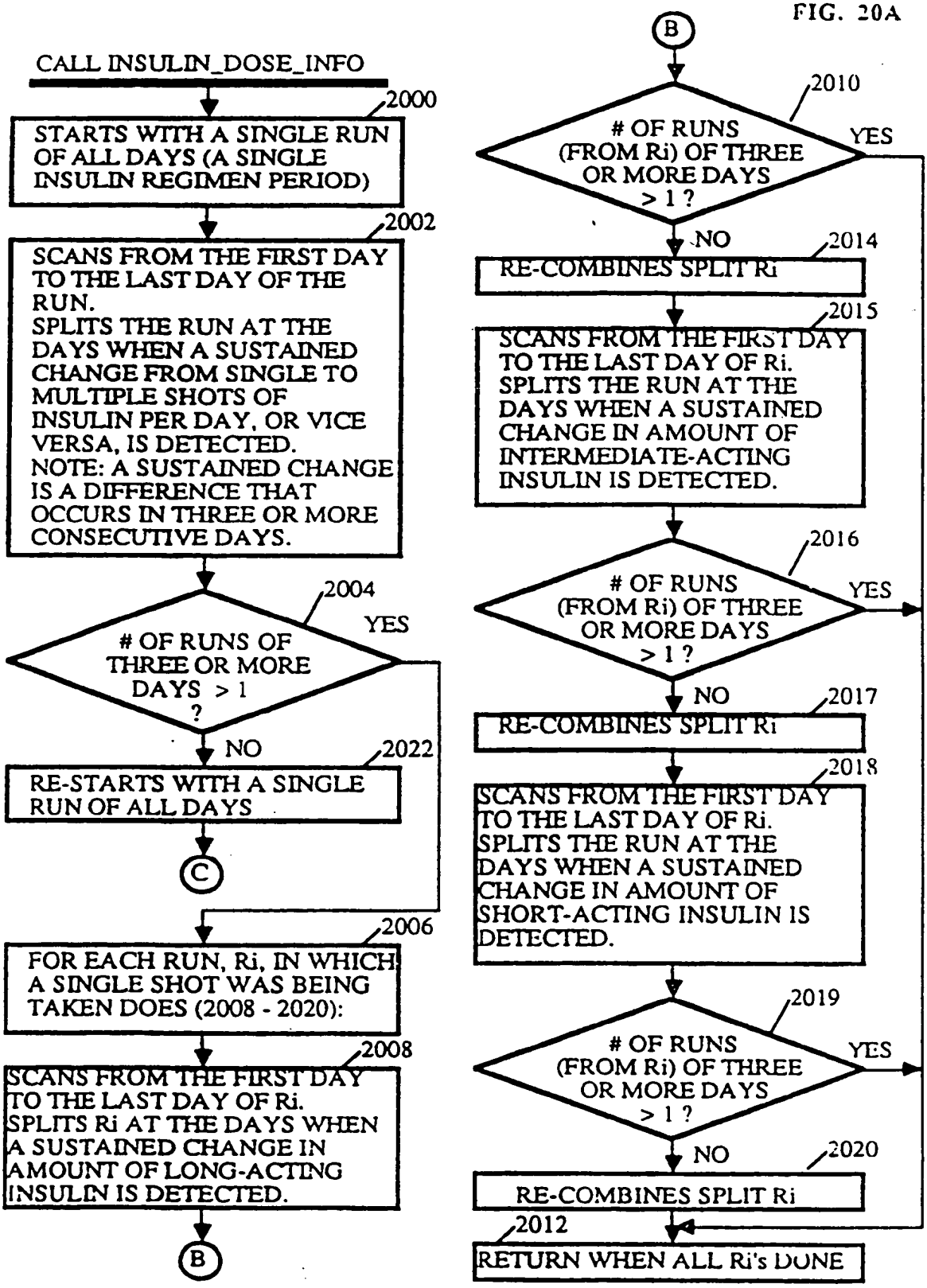

CALL INITIALIZE
1800
CLEAR GLOBAL DATA STRUCTURES
1802
DOES DATABASE <PATIENT_NAME>.DB EXIST ?
YES
NO
1803
LOADS <PATIENT_NAME>.DB
1806
READS A RECORD FROM DATA FILE <PATIENT_NAME>.METER
1808
ASSIGNS A UNIQUE KEY TO THE DAY, TIME INTERVAL IN THE DAY, AND THE READING
1810
ATTACHES THE KEY OF RELEVANT TIME INTERVAL TO THE READING
1812
ATTACHES THE KEY OF THE READING TO A GROUP LIST (E.G., LUNCH TIME LIST)
1814
NO
ALL RECORDS PROCESSED ?
YES
1816
WRITES ALL THE KEYED DATA ITEMS INTO DATABASE <PATIENT_NAME>.DB
1804
RETURN

FIG. 19



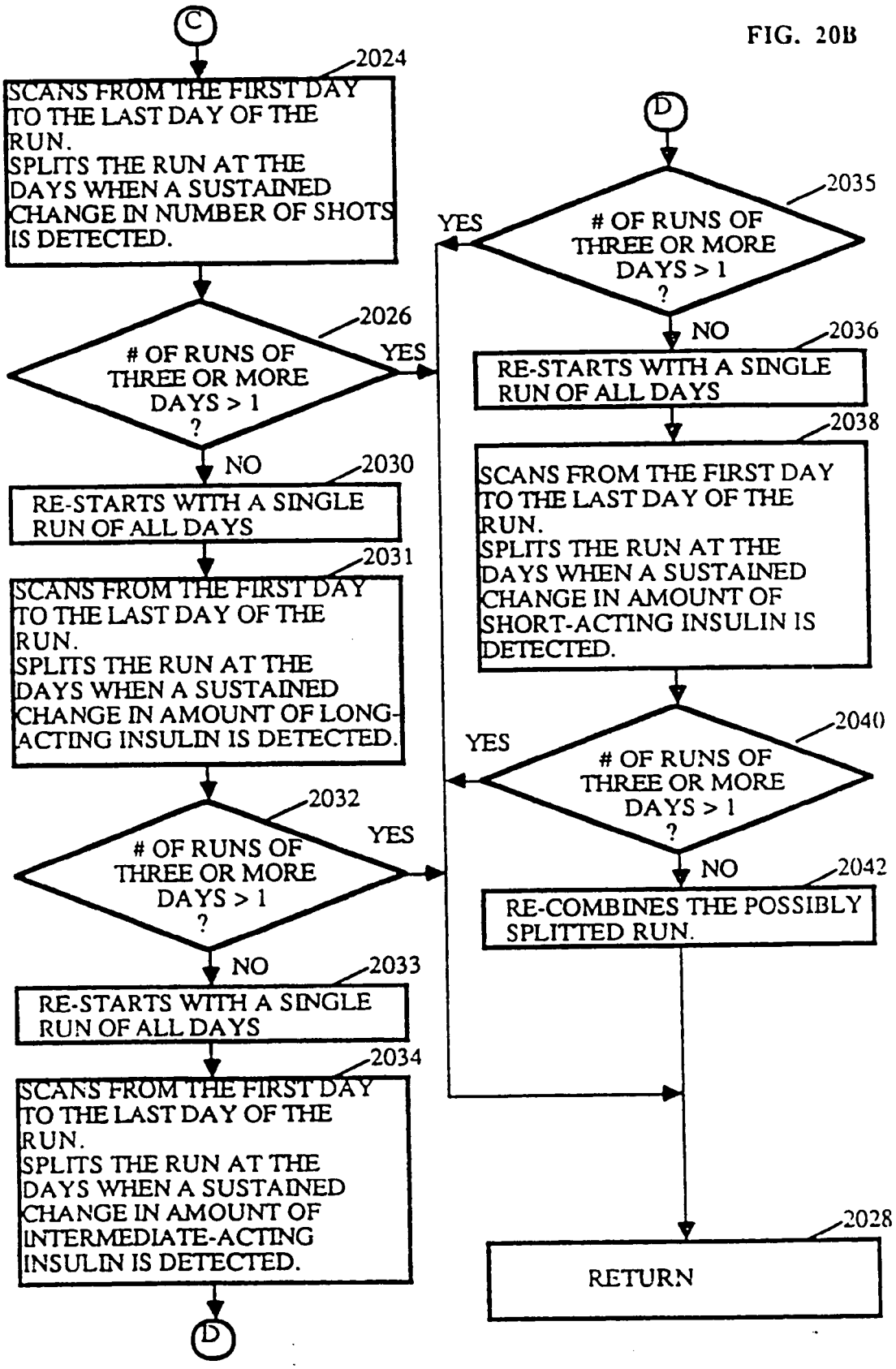
NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 20A



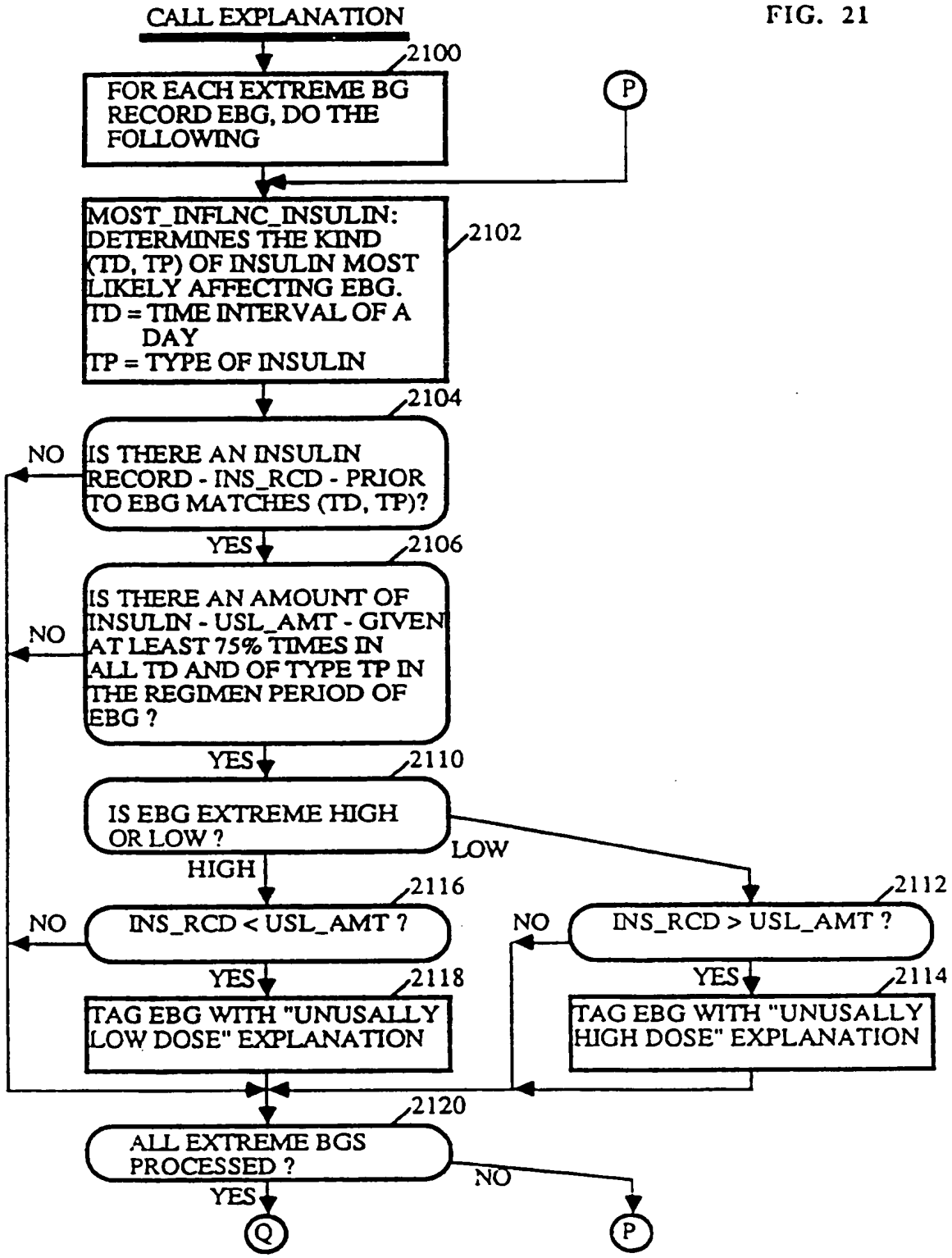
OOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 20B



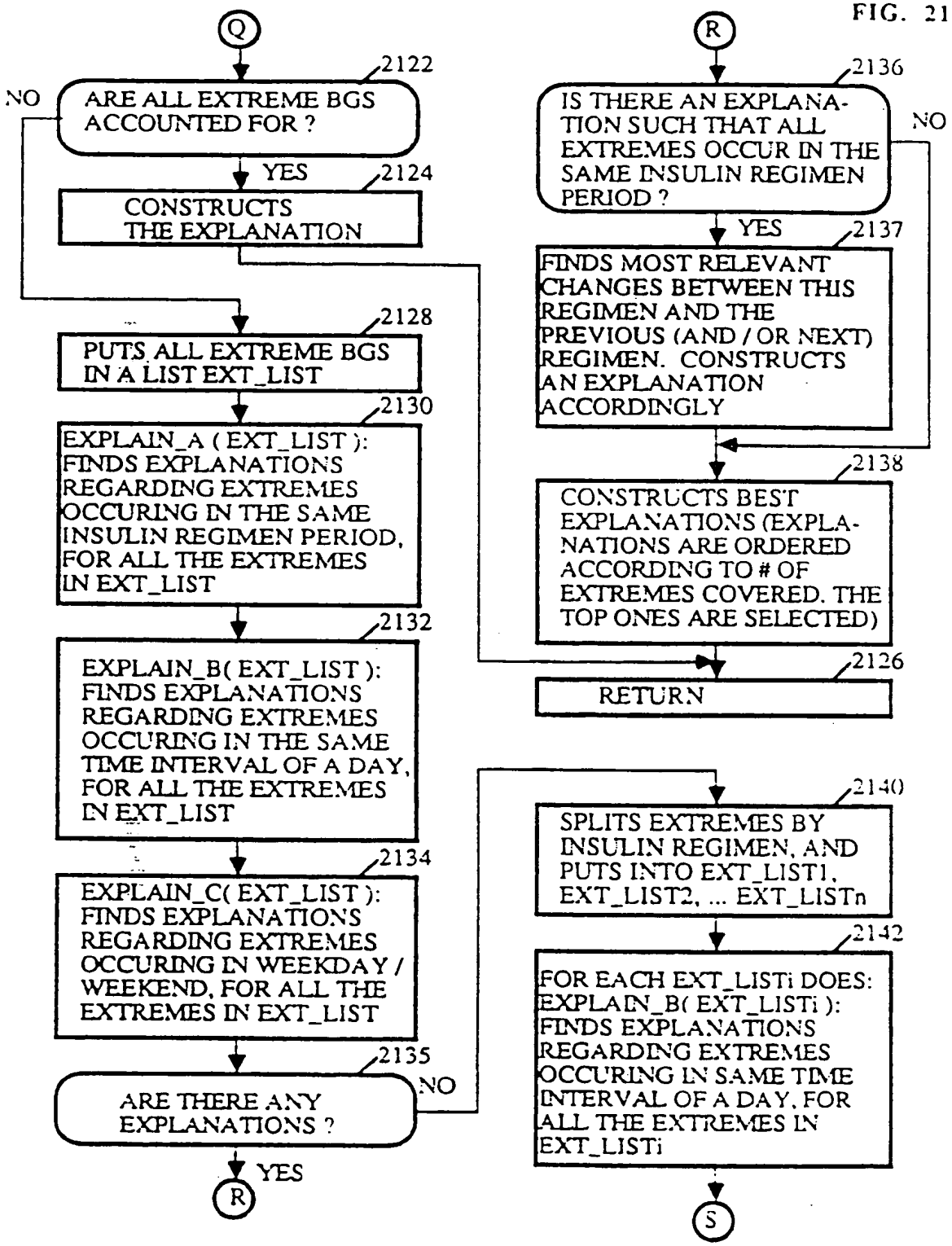
NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 21



DOCID: <EP__0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 21A



VSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 21B

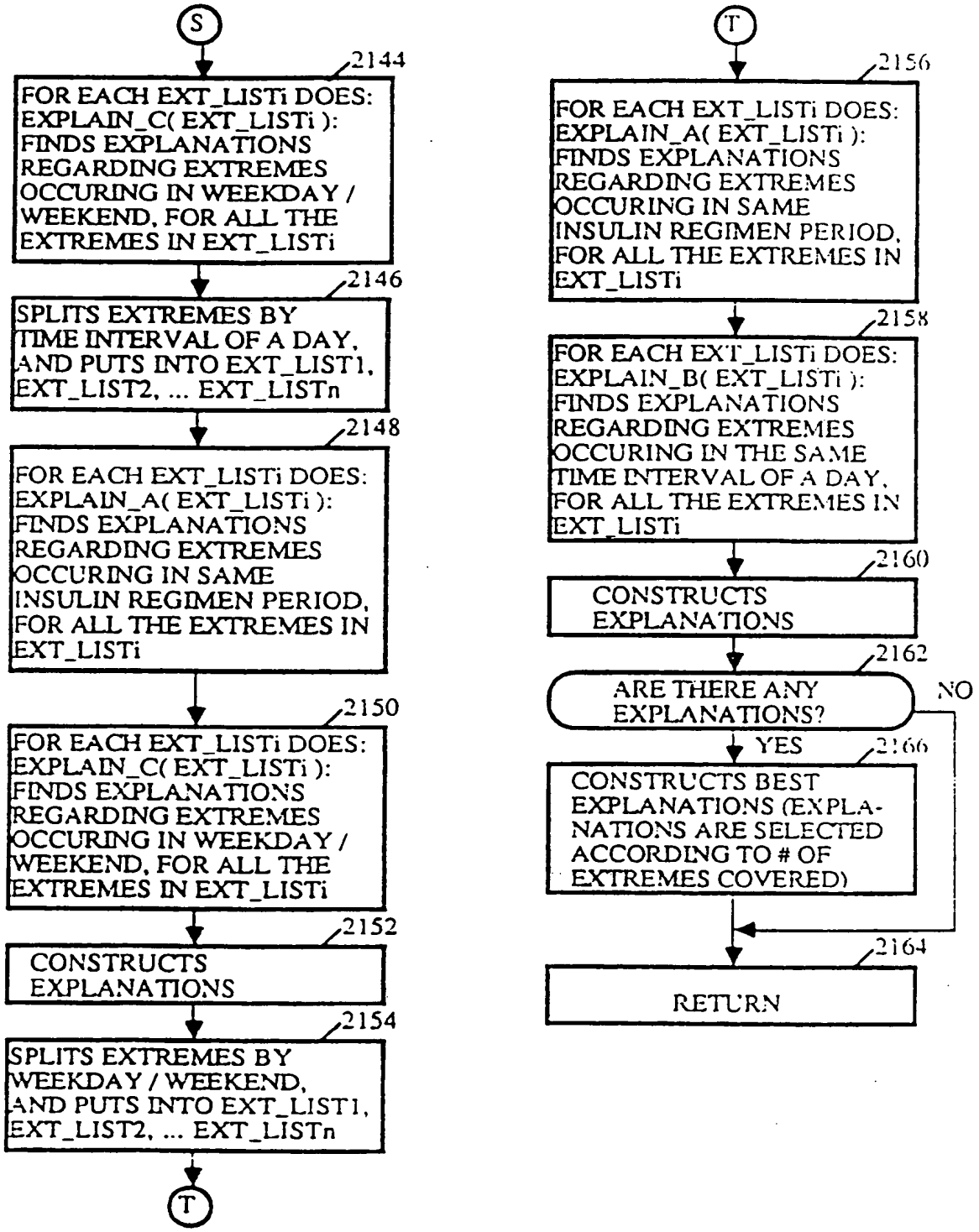
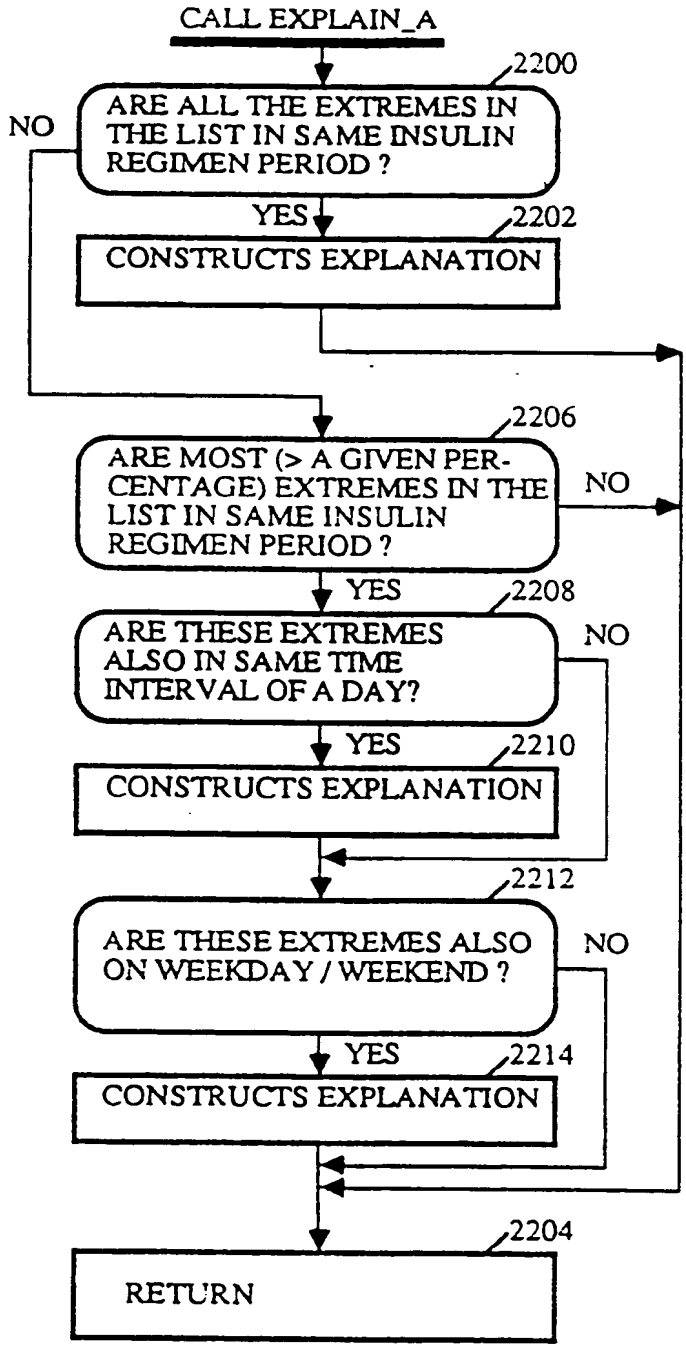
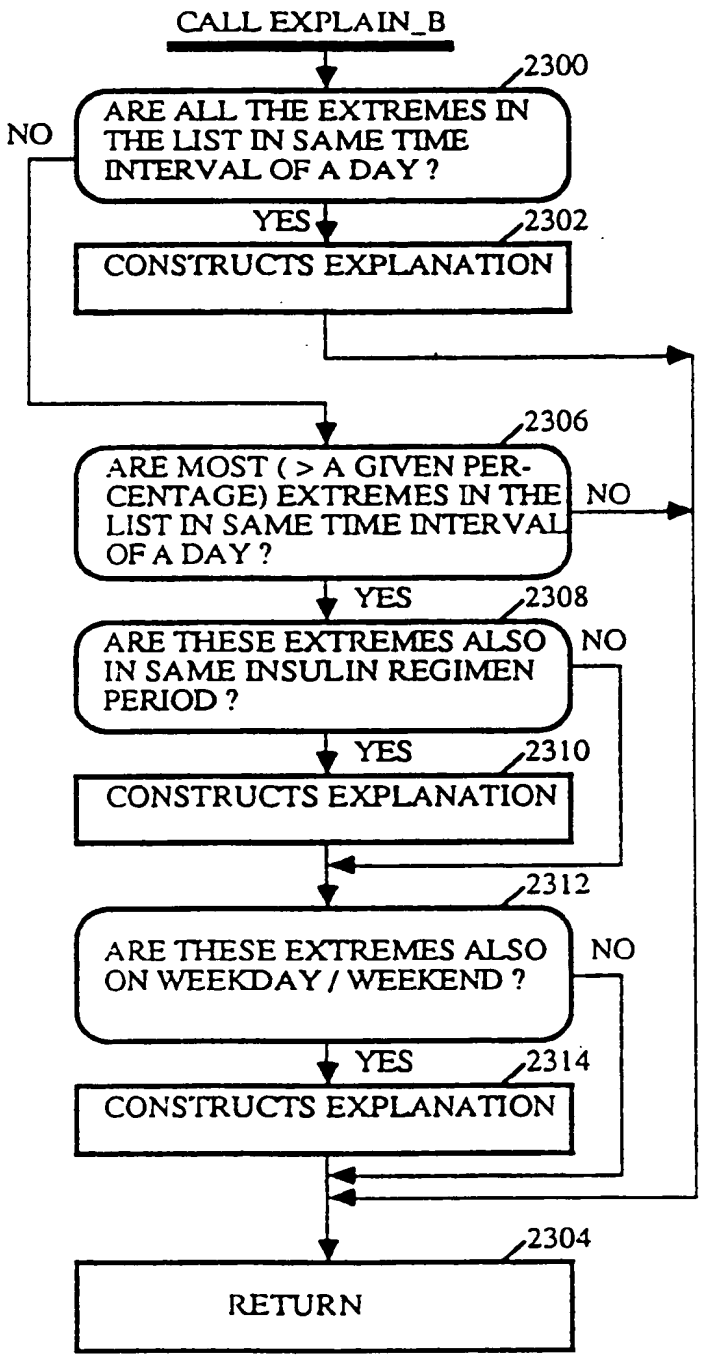

S
2144
FOR EACH EXT_LISTi DOES: EXPLAIN_C(EXT_LISTi): FINDS EXPLANATIONS REGARDING EXTREMES OCCURING IN WEEKDAY / WEEKEND, FOR ALL THE EXTREMES IN EXT_LISTi
2146
SPLITS EXTREMES BY TIME INTERVAL OF A DAY, AND PUTS INTO EXT_LIST1, EXT_LIST2, ... EXT_LISTn
2148
FOR EACH EXT_LISTi DOES: EXPLAIN_A(EXT_LISTi): FINDS EXPLANATIONS REGARDING EXTREMES OCCURING IN SAME INSULIN REGIMEN PERIOD, FOR ALL THE EXTREMES IN EXT_LISTi
2150
FOR EACH EXT_LISTi DOES: EXPLAIN_C(EXT_LISTi): FINDS EXPLANATIONS REGARDING EXTREMES OCCURING IN WEEKDAY / WEEKEND, FOR ALL THE EXTREMES IN EXT_LISTi
2152
CONSTRUCTS EXPLANATIONS
2154
SPLITS EXTREMES BY WEEKDAY / WEEKEND, AND PUTS INTO EXT_LIST1, EXT_LIST2, ... EXT_LISTn
T
T
2156
FOR EACH EXT_LISTi DOES: EXPLAIN_A(EXT_LISTi): FINDS EXPLANATIONS REGARDING EXTREMES OCCURING IN SAME INSULIN REGIMEN PERIOD, FOR ALL THE EXTREMES IN EXT_LISTi
2158
FOR EACH EXT_LISTi DOES: EXPLAIN_B(EXT_LISTi): FINDS EXPLANATIONS REGARDING EXTREMES OCCURING IN THE SAME TIME INTERVAL OF A DAY, FOR ALL THE EXTREMES IN EXT_LISTi
2160
CONSTRUCTS EXPLANATIONS
2162
ARE THERE ANY EXPLANATIONS?
NO
YES
2166
CONSTRUCTS BEST EXPLANATIONS (EXPLANATIONS ARE SELECTED ACCORDING TO # OF EXTREMES COVERED)
2164
RETURN

FIG. 22



<SDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 23



DOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 24

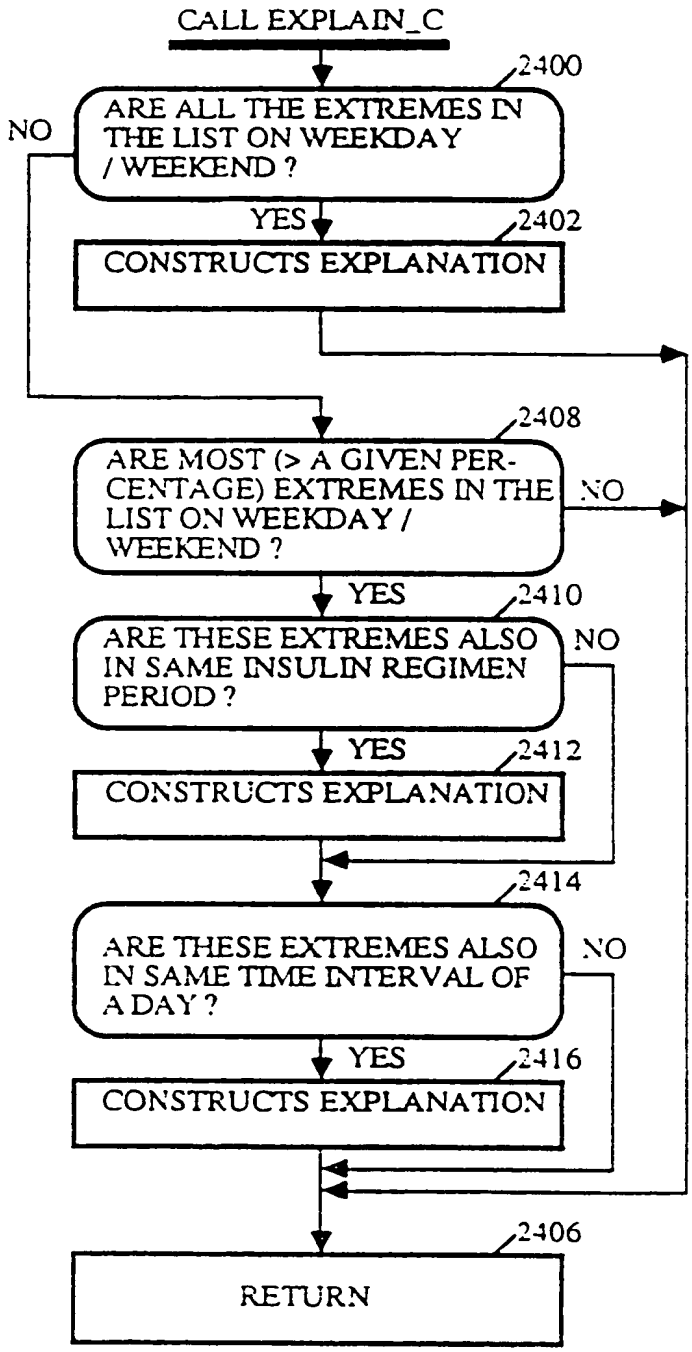
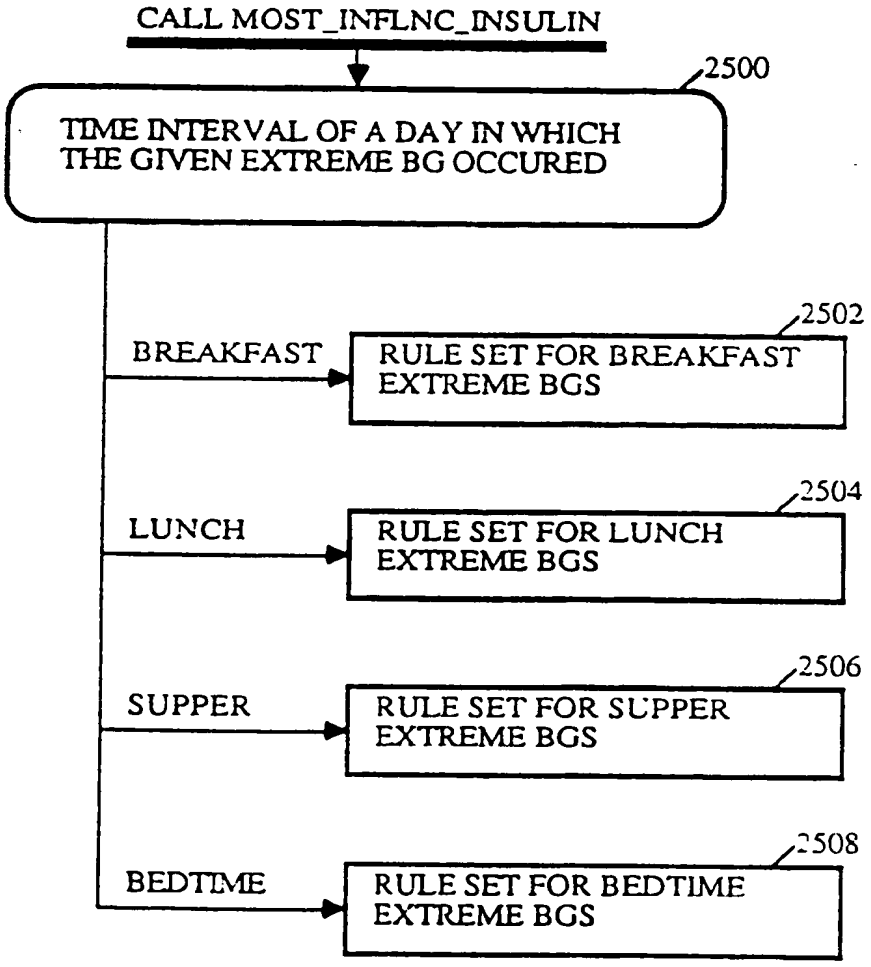

CALL EXPLAIN_C
2400
ARE ALL THE EXTREMES IN THE LIST ON WEEKDAY / WEEKEND ?
NO
YES
2402
CONSTRUCTS EXPLANATION
2408
ARE MOST (> A GIVEN PER-CENTAGE) EXTREMES IN THE LIST ON WEEKDAY / WEEKEND ?
NO
YES
2410
ARE THESE EXTREMES ALSO IN SAME INSULIN REGIMEN PERIOD ?
NO
YES
2412
CONSTRUCTS EXPLANATION
2414
ARE THESE EXTREMES ALSO IN SAME TIME INTERVAL OF A DAY ?
NO
YES
2416
CONSTRUCTS EXPLANATION
2406
RETURN

FIG. 25



:OCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 26

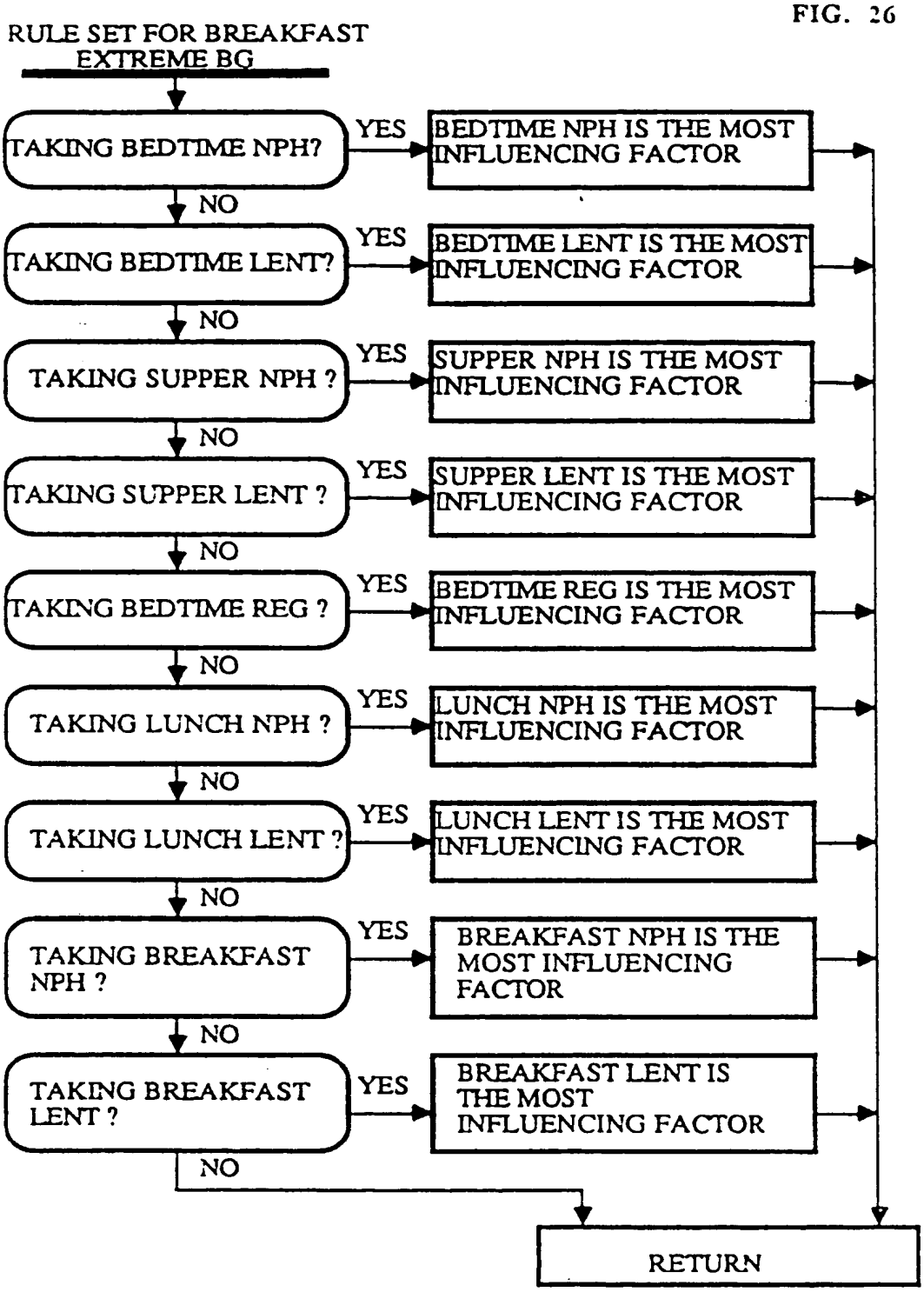
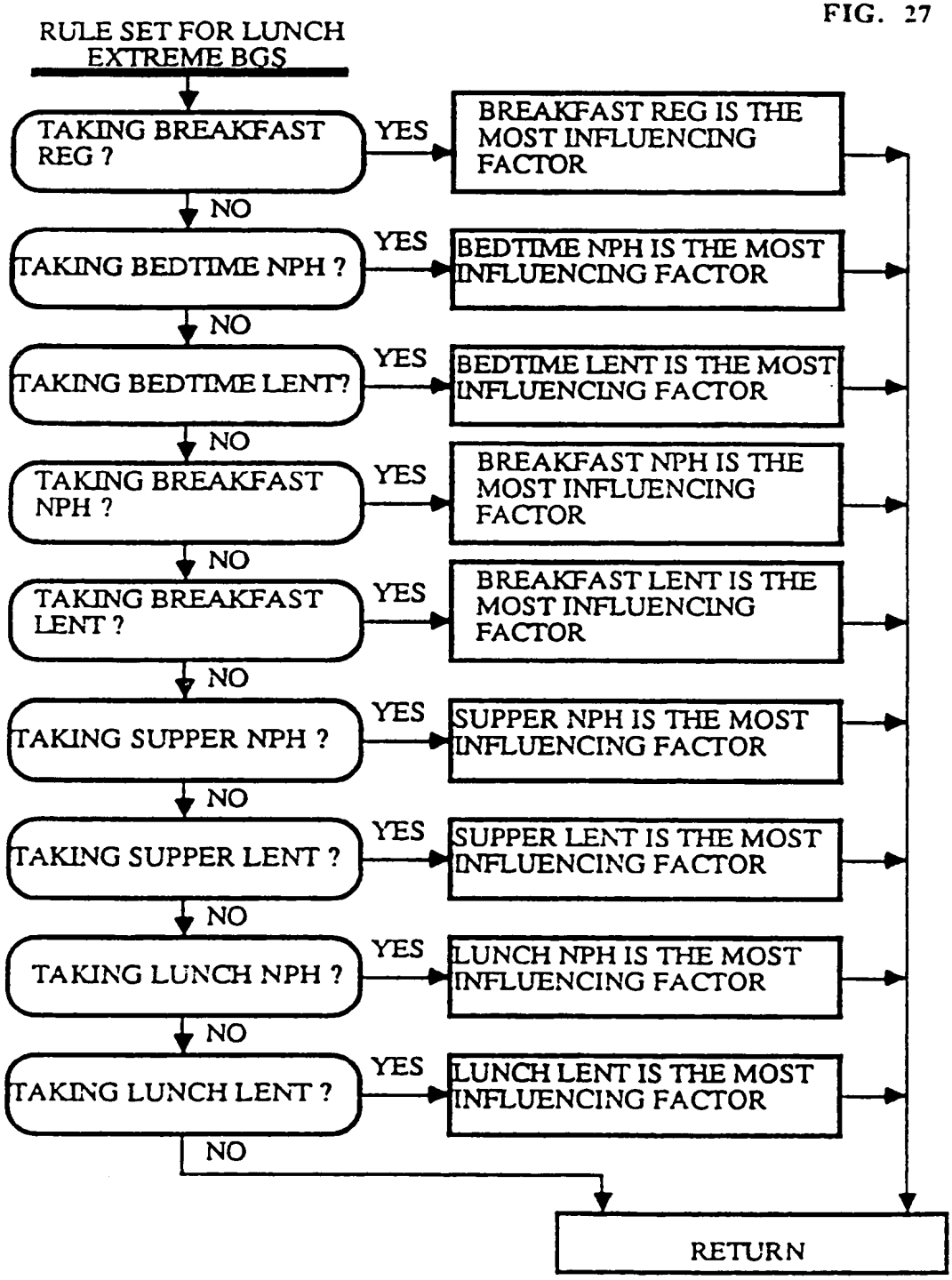
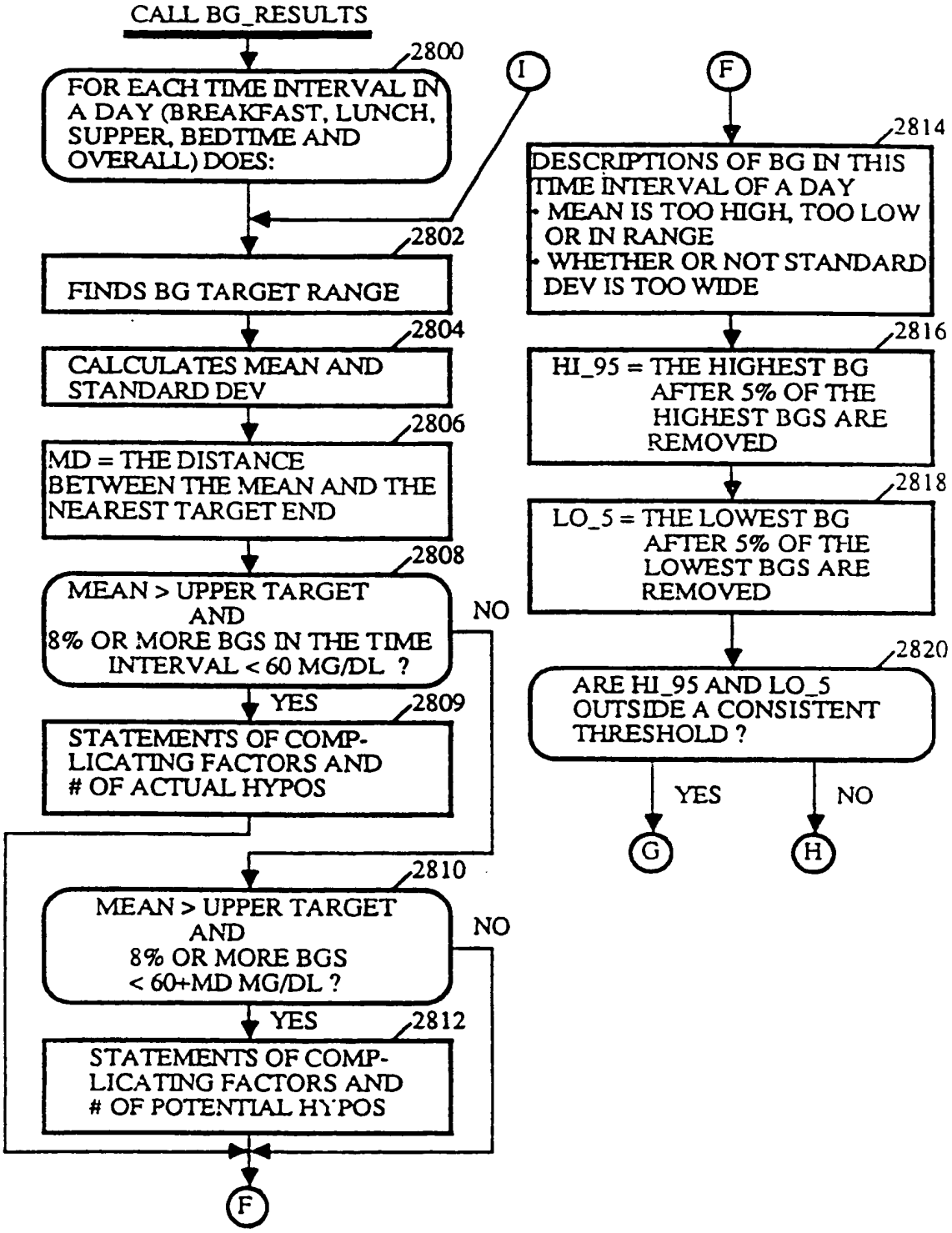

RULE SET FOR BREAKFAST
EXTREME BG
TAKING BEDTIME NPH?
YES
BEDTIME NPH IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING BEDTIME LENT?
YES
BEDTIME LENT IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING SUPPER NPH ?
YES
SUPPER NPH IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING SUPPER LENT ?
YES
SUPPER LENT IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING BEDTIME REG ?
YES
BEDTIME REG IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING LUNCH NPH ?
YES
LUNCH NPH IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING LUNCH LENT ?
YES
LUNCH LENT IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING BREAKFAST NPH ?
YES
BREAKFAST NPH IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
TAKING BREAKFAST LENT ?
YES
BREAKFAST LENT IS THE MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR
NO
RETURN

FIG. 27



DOCID: <EP__0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 28



NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 28A

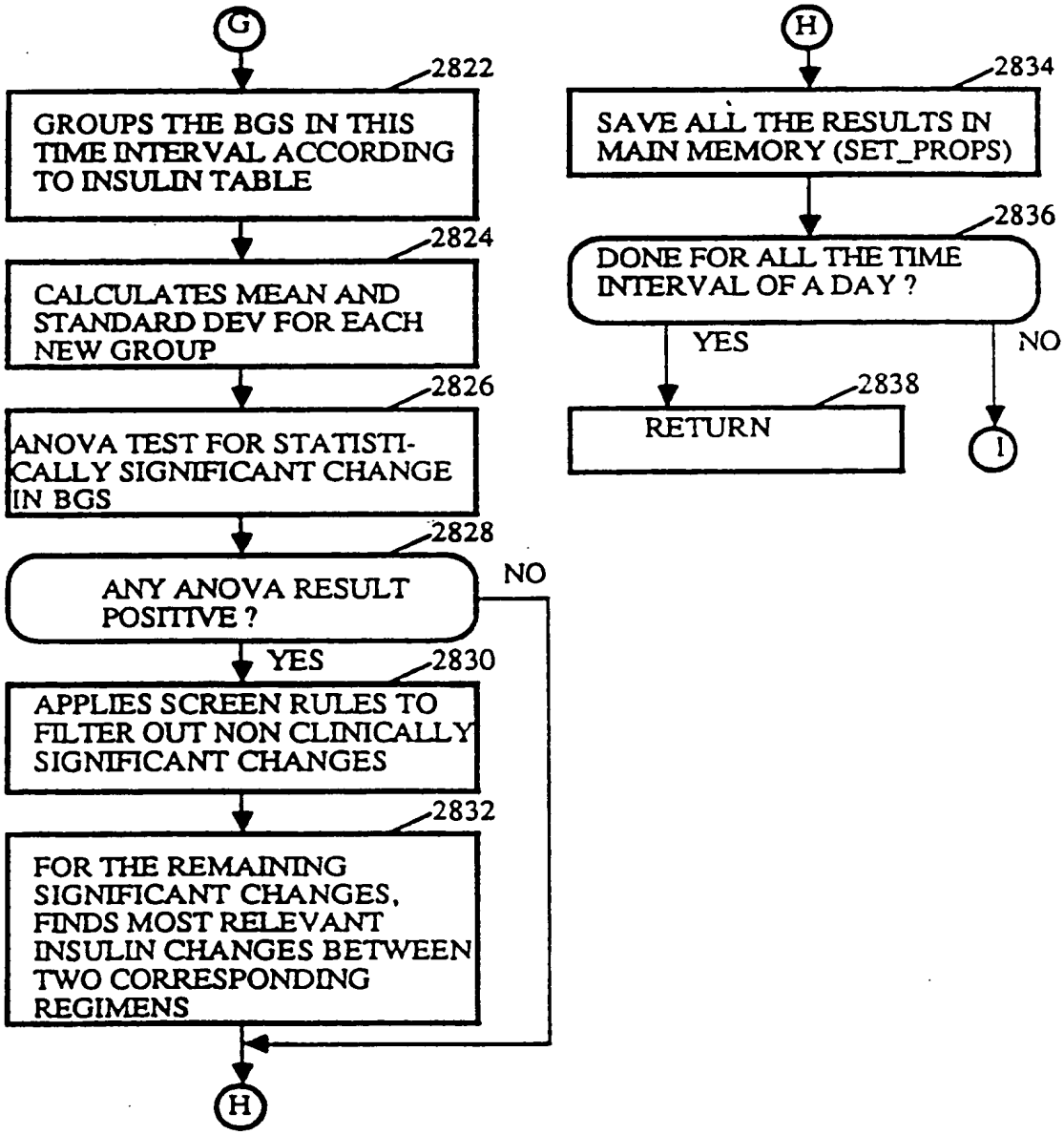
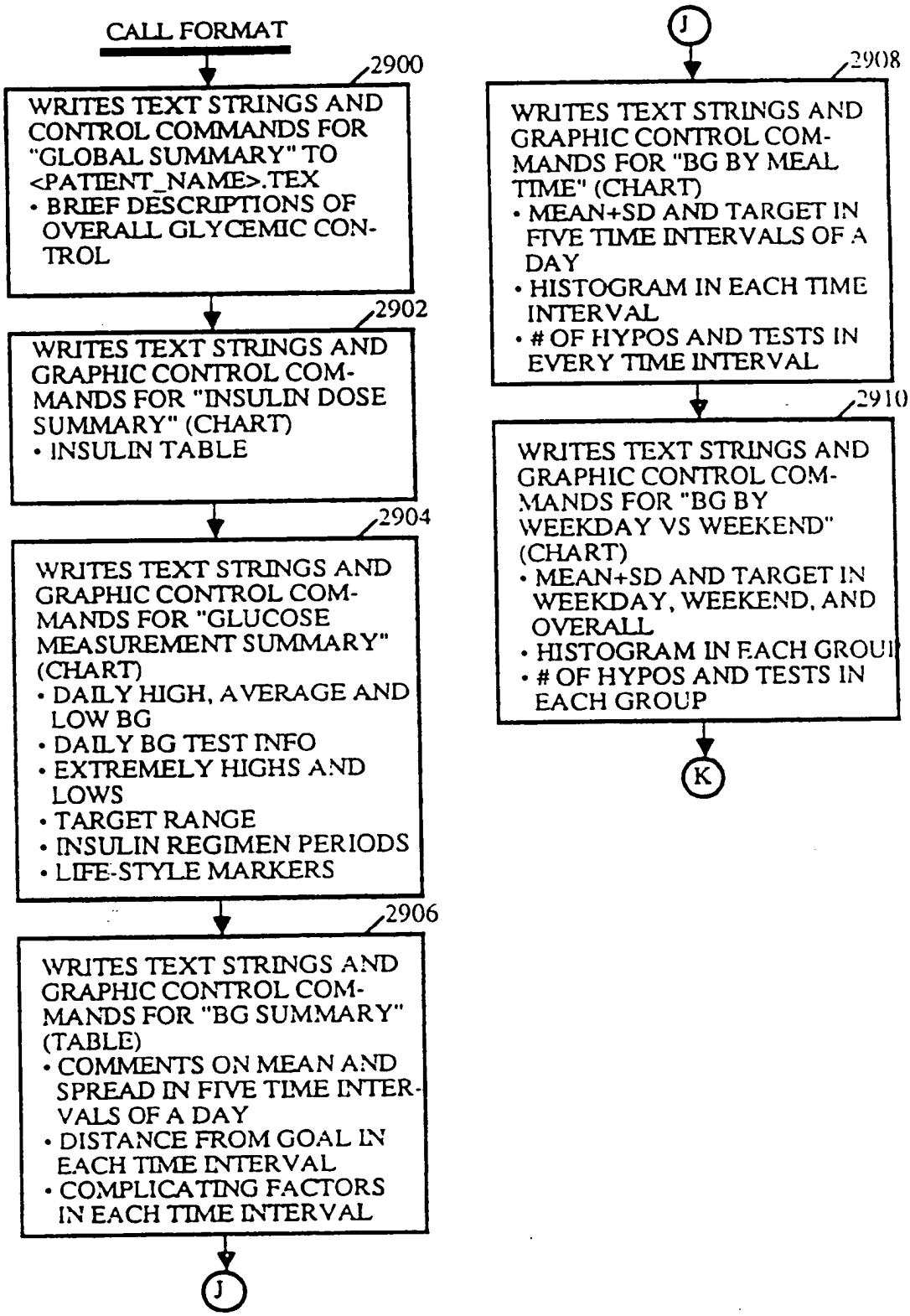

G
2822
GROUPS THE BGS IN THIS TIME INTERVAL ACCORDING TO INSULIN TABLE
2824
CALCULATES MEAN AND STANDARD DEV FOR EACH NEW GROUP
2826
ANOVA TEST FOR STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN BGS
2828
ANY ANOVA RESULT POSITIVE ?
NO
YES
2830
APPLIES SCREEN RULES TO FILTER OUT NON CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES
2832
FOR THE REMAINING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, FINDS MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES BETWEEN TWO CORRESPONDING REGIMENS
H
H
2834
SAVE ALL THE RESULTS IN MAIN MEMORY (SET_PROPS)
2836
DONE FOR ALL THE TIME INTERVAL OF A DAY ?
YES
NO
2838
RETURN
I

FIG. 29



NSDOCID: <EP___0483595A2_I_>

FIG. 29A

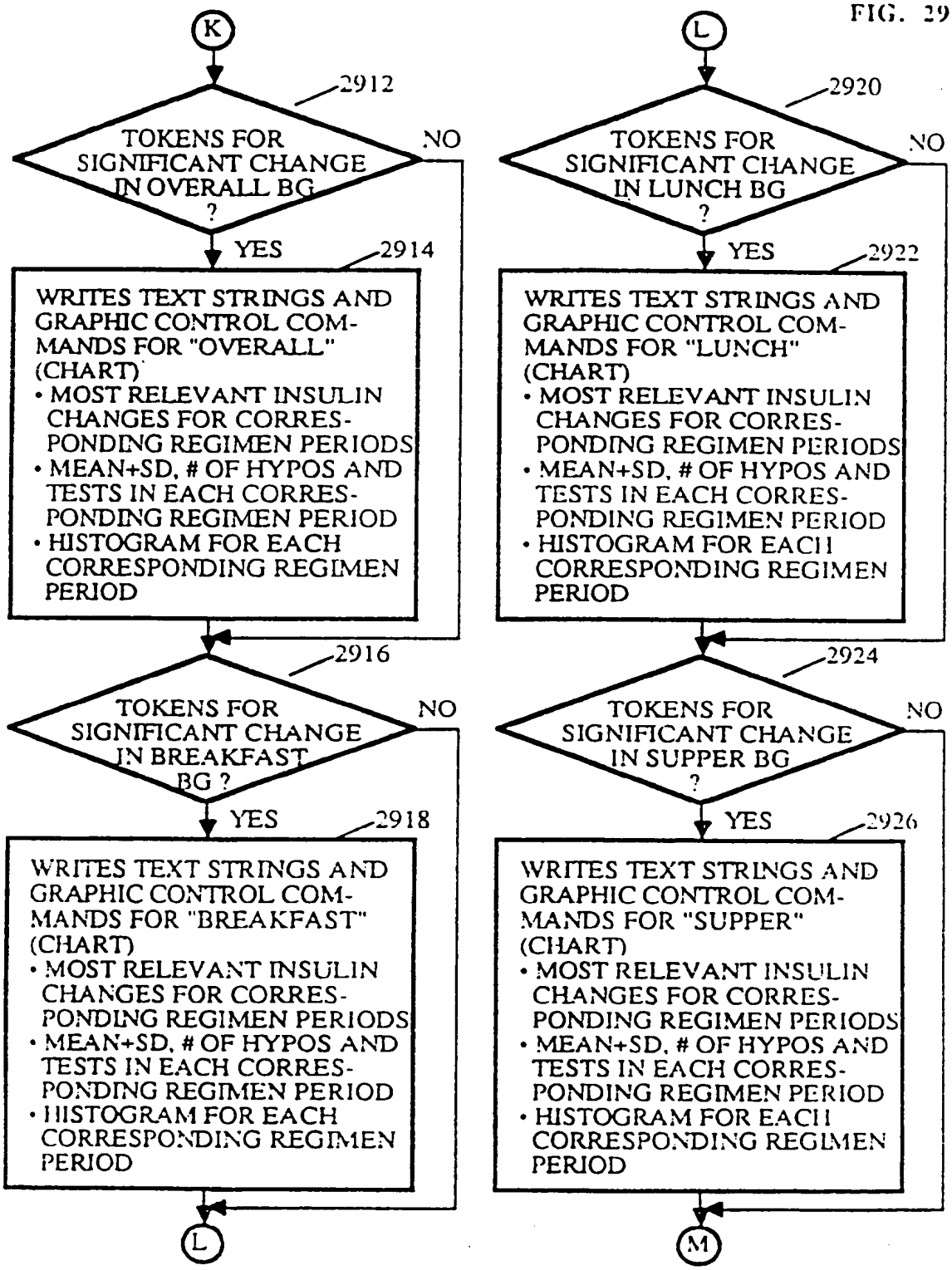

K
2912
TOKENS FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN OVERALL BG ?
NO
YES
2914
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR "OVERALL" (CHART)
• MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES FOR CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIODS
• MEAN+SD, # OF HYPOS AND TESTS IN EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
• HISTOGRAM FOR EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
2916
TOKENS FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN BREAKFAST BG ?
NO
YES
2918
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR "BREAKFAST" (CHART)
• MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES FOR CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIODS
• MEAN+SD, # OF HYPOS AND TESTS IN EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
• HISTOGRAM FOR EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
L
L
2920
TOKENS FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN LUNCH BG ?
NO
YES
2922
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR "LUNCH" (CHART)
• MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES FOR CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIODS
• MEAN+SD, # OF HYPOS AND TESTS IN EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
• HISTOGRAM FOR EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
2924
TOKENS FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SUPPER BG ?
NO
YES
2926
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR "SUPPER" (CHART)
• MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES FOR CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIODS
• MEAN+SD, # OF HYPOS AND TESTS IN EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
• HISTOGRAM FOR EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
M

FIG. 29B

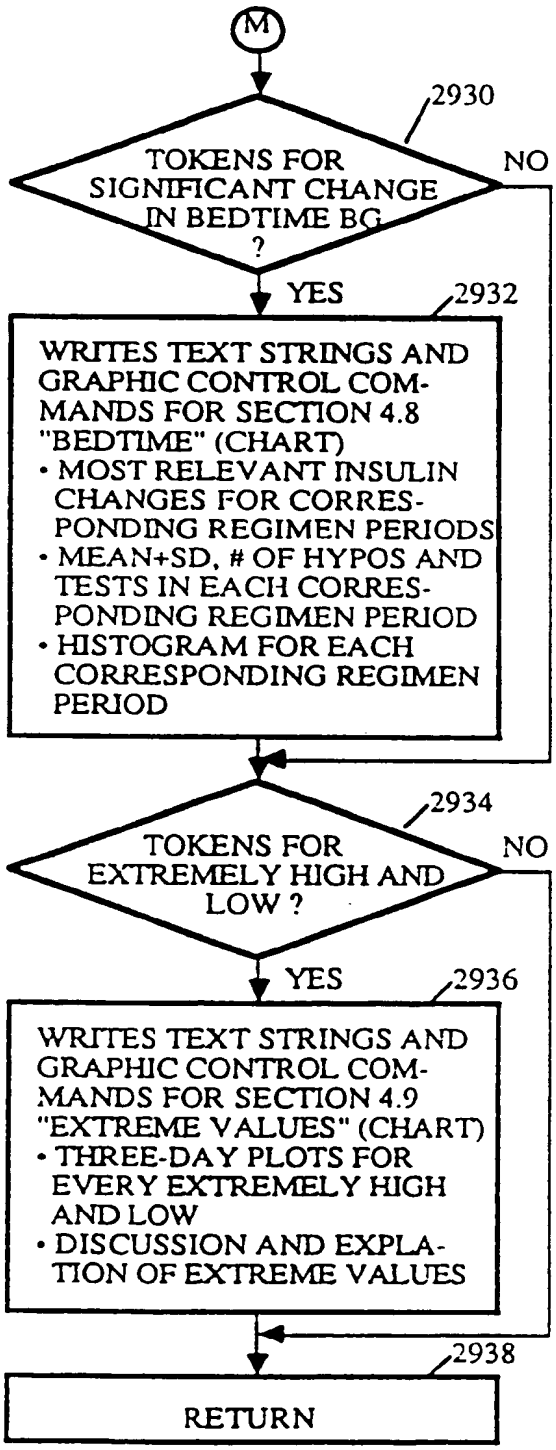
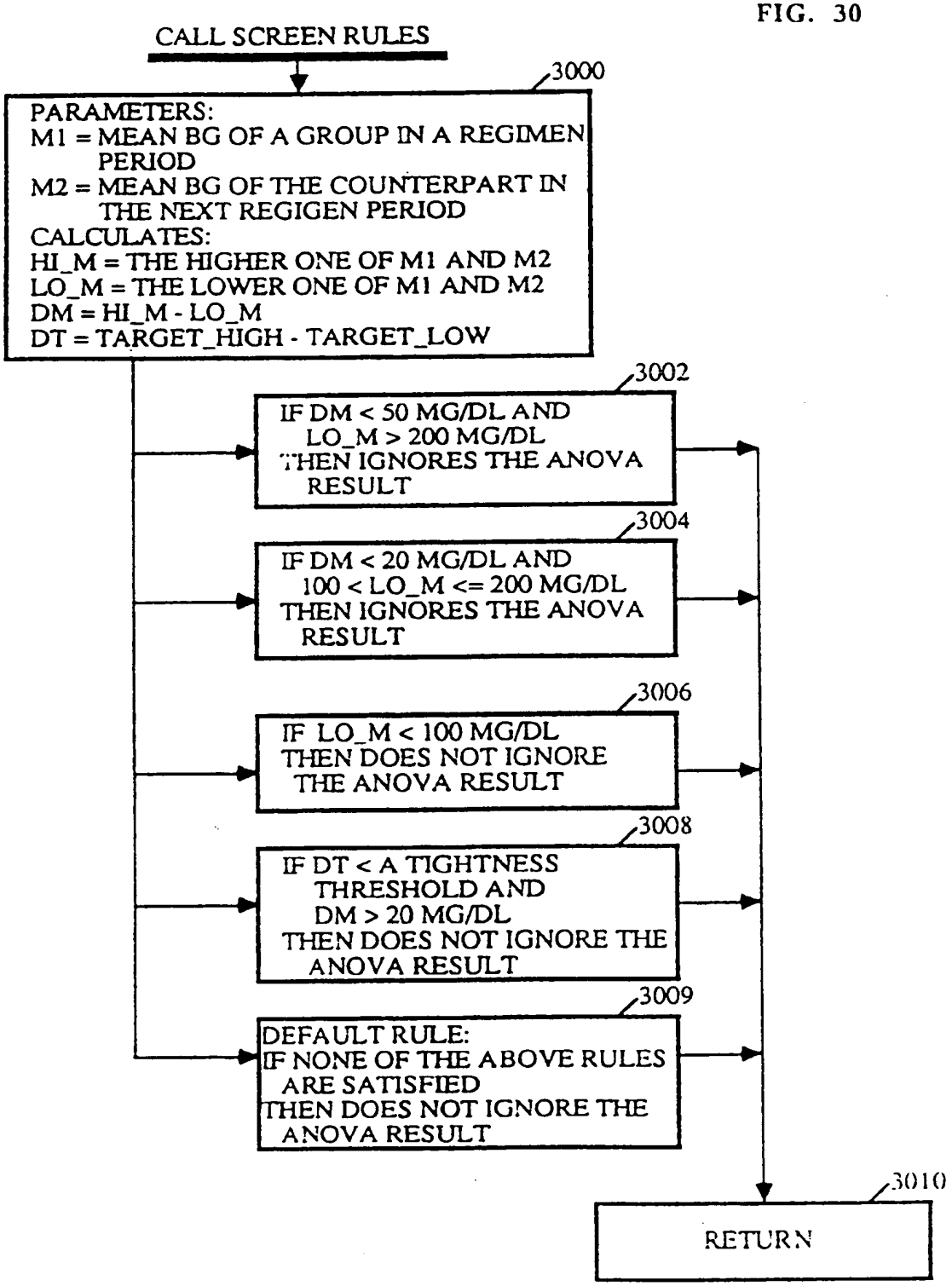

M
2930
TOKENS FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN BEDTIME BG ?
NO
YES
2932
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR SECTION 4.8 "BEDTIME" (CHART)
• MOST RELEVANT INSULIN CHANGES FOR CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIODS
• MEAN+SD, # OF HYPOS AND TESTS IN EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
• HISTOGRAM FOR EACH CORRESPONDING REGIMEN PERIOD
2934
TOKENS FOR EXTREMELY HIGH AND LOW ?
NO
YES
2936
WRITES TEXT STRINGS AND GRAPHIC CONTROL COMMANDS FOR SECTION 4.9 "EXTREME VALUES" (CHART)
• THREE-DAY PLOTS FOR EVERY EXTREMELY HIGH AND LOW
• DISCUSSION AND EXPLATION OF EXTREME VALUES
2938
RETURN

FIG. 30



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(54) Diabetes data analysis and interpretation system.

(57) An automated diabetes data interpretation system is provided which combines symbolic and numeric computing approaches in order to identify and highlight key clinical findings in the patient's self-recorded diabetes data. The patent data, including blood glucose levels and insulin dosage levels, recorded by a diabetic patient over a period of tim by means of a glucose meter or the like, is initially downloaded into a central processing system such as a personal computer. The accepted diabetes data is subsequently processed to (a) identify insulin dosage regimens corresponding to predefined significant changes in insulin dosage which are found to be sustained for at least a predefined segment of the overall data collection period, (b) identify statistically significant changes in blood glucose levels resulting across adjacent ones of the identified insulin regimen periods, and (c) identify clinically significant changes in blood glucose levels from within the identified statistically significant glucose level changes. The results of the diabetes data processing are generated in the form of a comprehensive yet easily understandable data interpretation report highlighting the processing results, including details pertaining to the identified insulin regimens and the associated clinically significant changes in glucose levels.

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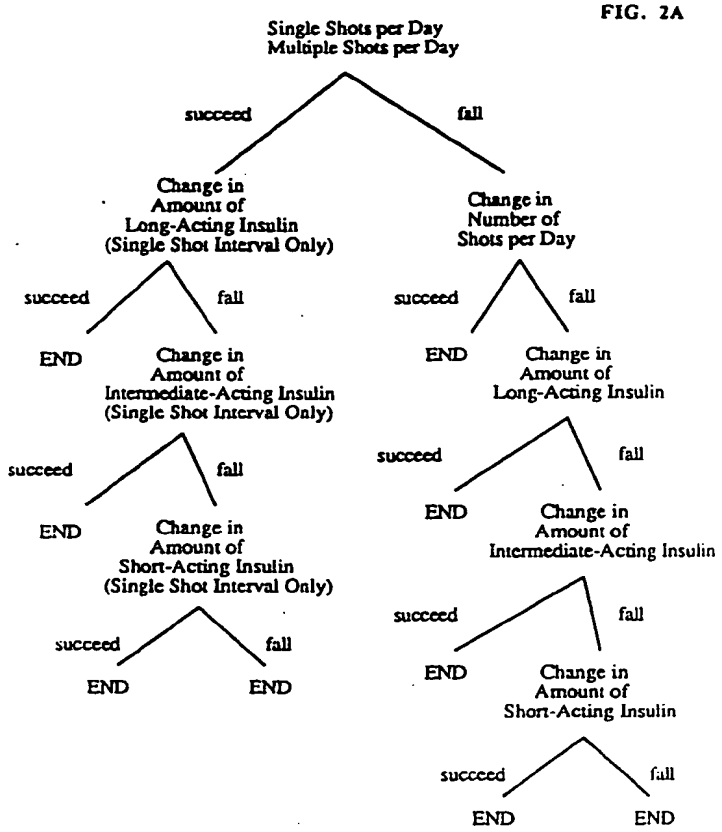
FIG. 2A



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European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 11 7600

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN MEDICALE CARE 5 November 1989, WASHINGTON DC, US pages 28 - 32 KAHN M.G. ET AL 'MODEL-BASED INTERPRETATION OF TIME VARYING MEDICAL DATA' * page 28, right column, line 15 - line 21 * * page 29, left column, line 38 - right column, line 29 * * page 29, right column, line 45 - page 30, left column, line 16 * * page 30, right column, line 9 - line 40 * * page 30, right column, line 48 - line 59 * * page 31, left column, line 14 - line 20 * * page 31, right column, line 27 - page 32, left column, line 35 * ---	1-2	G06F15/42
A	US-A-4 731 726 (ALLEN III) 15 March 1988 * column 1, line 50 - line 55 * * column 2, line 1 - line 51 * * column 6, line 42 - line 68 * --- -/--	1-2	G06F

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	22 FEBRUARY 1993	BARBA M.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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P : intermediate document

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E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

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